

10¢

A VITAL BOOK

SM
★
3

THE SPIRIT

IN
MURDER RUNS WILD!

6

COMPLETE STORIES
STARRING

The **SPIRIT**

AMERICA'S
GREATEST
CRIMEBUSTER!





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

CONTENTS

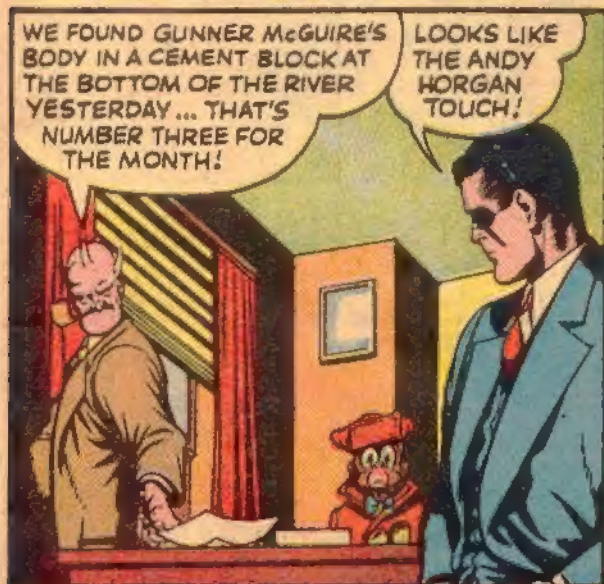
- Death Takes Its Toll — Killer Andy Horgan**
finds you can't cheat the Grim Reaper page 1
- Music Hath Charms — that send the Maestro**
behind bars page 9
- An Old Beau Returns — and brings a bouquet**
of trouble page 17
- Class Reunion — *The Spirit* shows who has**
class in the Class of '35 page 25
- Wanted, One Child — Terrible Terry Gill**
wants an heir to carry on, and that's just
what the kid does! page 33
- Stormy Weather — and *The Spirit* rains a**
cloudburst of blows on Killer Sykes page 41

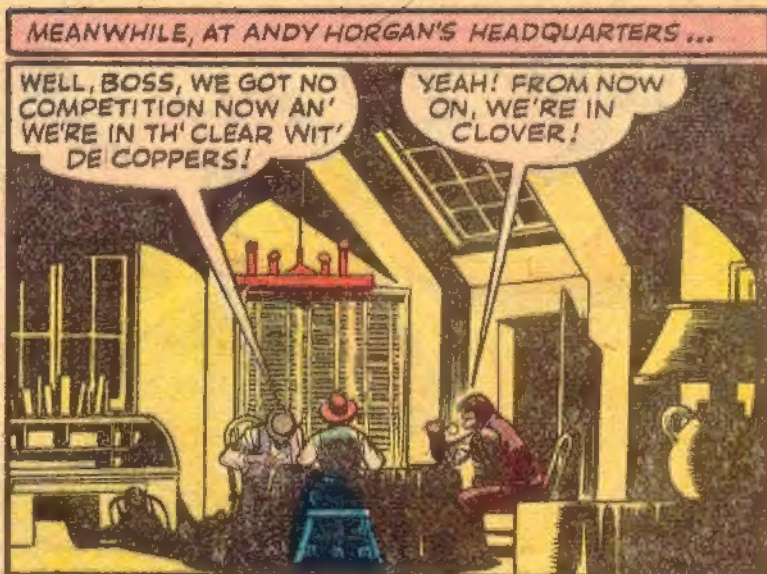
THE Spirit

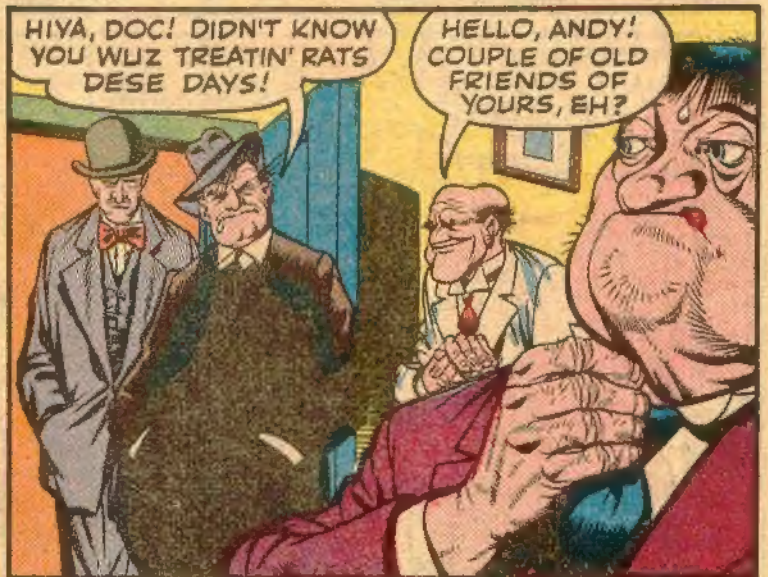
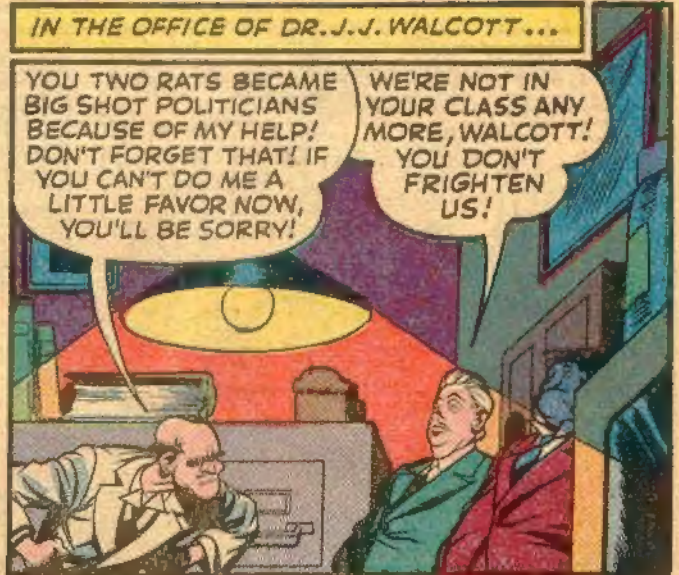


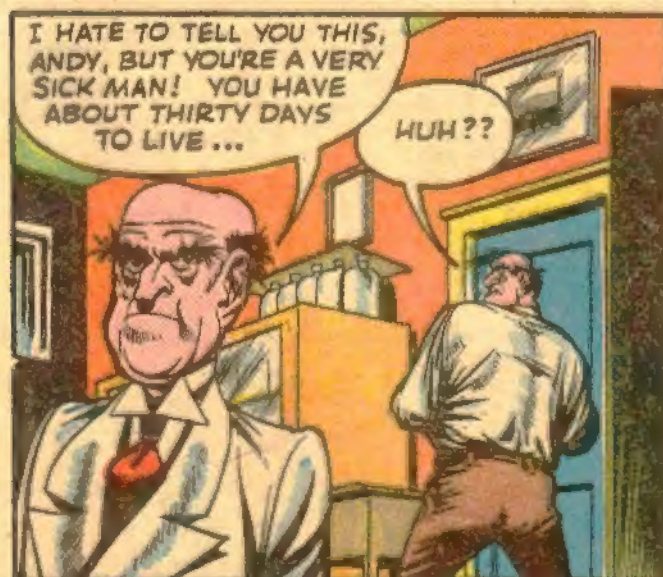
by
Will Eisner

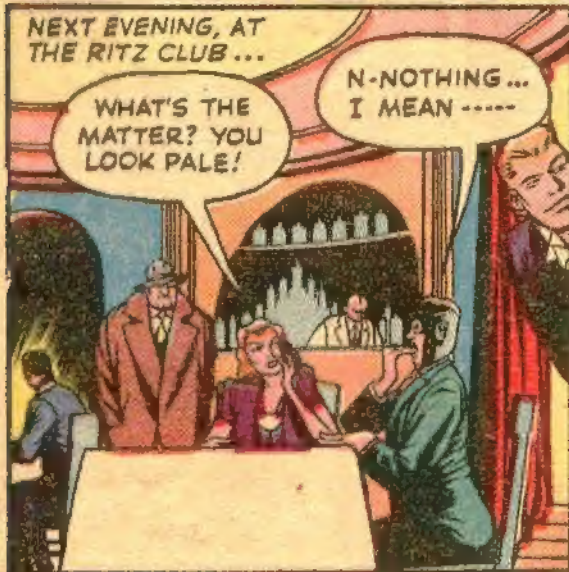
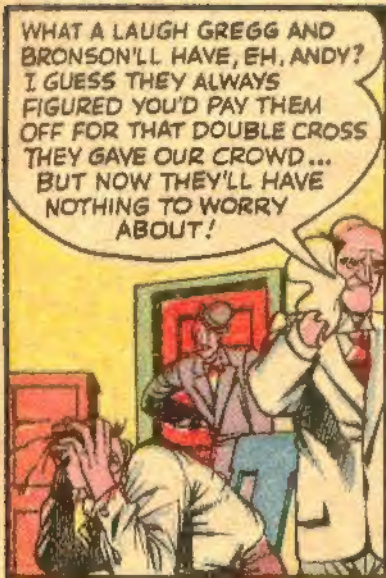
ABOVE RESTRICTING CONVENTIONS, BEYOND THE CONFUSION OF RED TAPE, RULES **THE SPIRIT** AS HE SMASHES CRIME BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW!

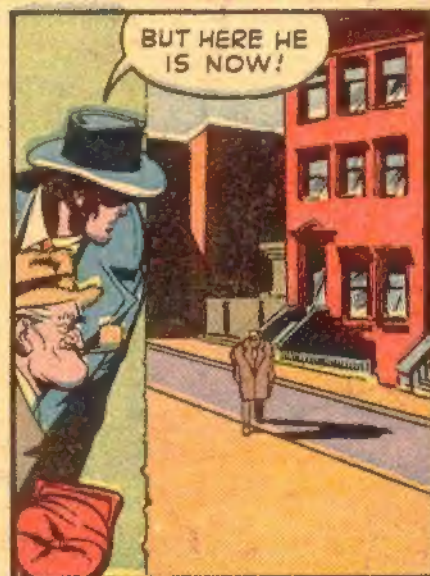


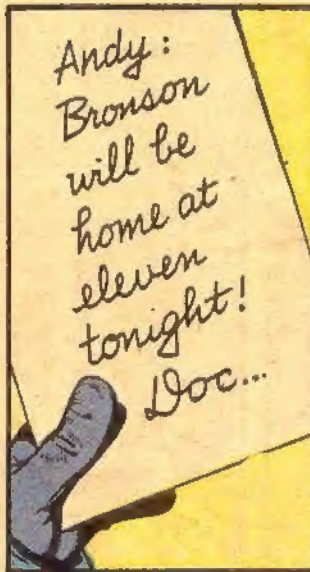












JUSTICE MOVES
SWIFTLY... AND
SOON...

HAW-HAW! TELL YOU
WHAT, DOLAN ... I'LL
GIVE YOU FIVE TO ONE
I DON'T GO TO THE
CHAIR TONIGHT! MY
THIRTY DAYS IS UP
TODAY!

WHAT
THIRTY
DAYS?

ALL RIGHT, HORGAN... I'M THE
PRISON DOCTOR! THIS
IS THE FINAL CHECK-UP
BEFORE YOU GO TO
THE CHAIR!

WELL... HOW ABOUT
DAT BET,
DOLAN?

YOU'RE AS SOUND
AS A DOLLAR! ...
HEALTHIEST CONDEMNED
MAN I'VE EVER
EXAMINED!

WHAT?? YOU'RE
NUTS! ... DOC
WALCOTT TOLD ME
I HAD ONLY THIRTY
DAYS TO LIVE... AND
...AND WHAT ABOUT
DEM PAINS IN ME
CHEST?

PROBABLY INDIGESTION
FROM EATING AND
DRINKING TOO MUCH!
IF YOU WEREN'T A
KILLER, YOU COULD
HAVE LIVED TO BE
A HUNDRED!

SUDDENLY...!

HLH?... WHA---
AGGHHHHH...

HE'S
DYING!

HEART FAILURE! BUT I
ASSURE YOU IT MIGHT
HAVE HAPPENED TO ANY
MAN WHO'D HEARD WHAT
I JUST NOW TOLD HORGAN!
THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH,
EVEN FOR A HEART AS
STRONG AS HIS!

I SEE IT NOW! WALCOTT
STEERED HIM AFTER GREGG
AND BRONSON! ...TOLD HIM
HE WAS GOING TO DIE!
THAT'S WHY HORGAN
DIDN'T CARE IF HE
WAS CAUGHT!

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PRISON...

THAT WAS A BRAINSTORM...
PULLING WALCOTT IN ON
SUSPICION, SPIRIT! HE'LL
SURELY BE CONVICTED
OF COMPLICITY!

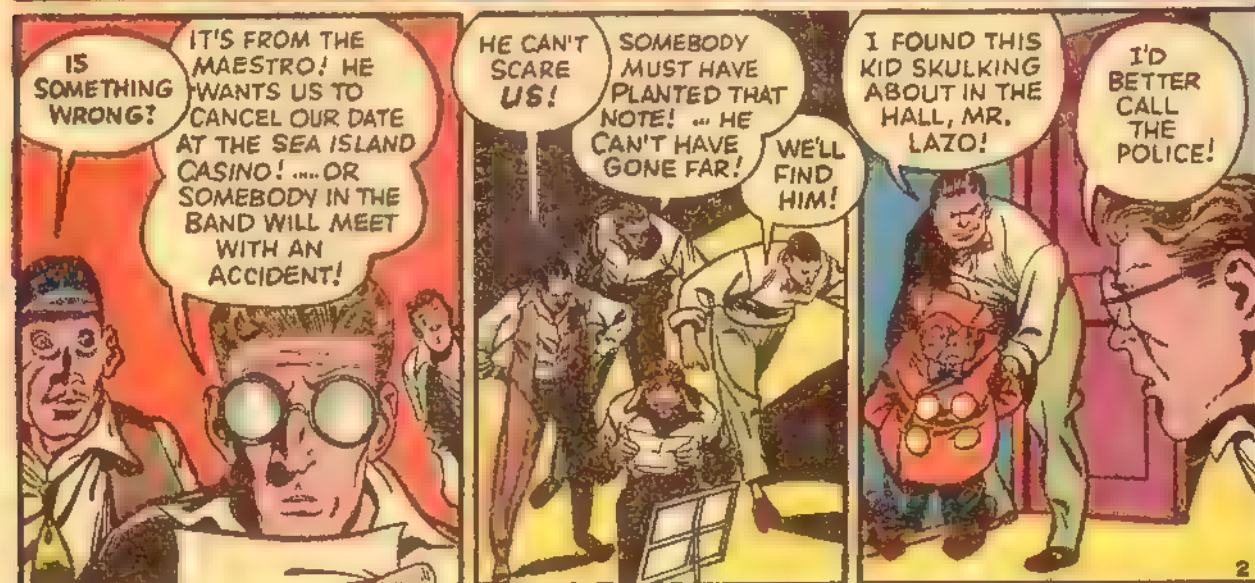
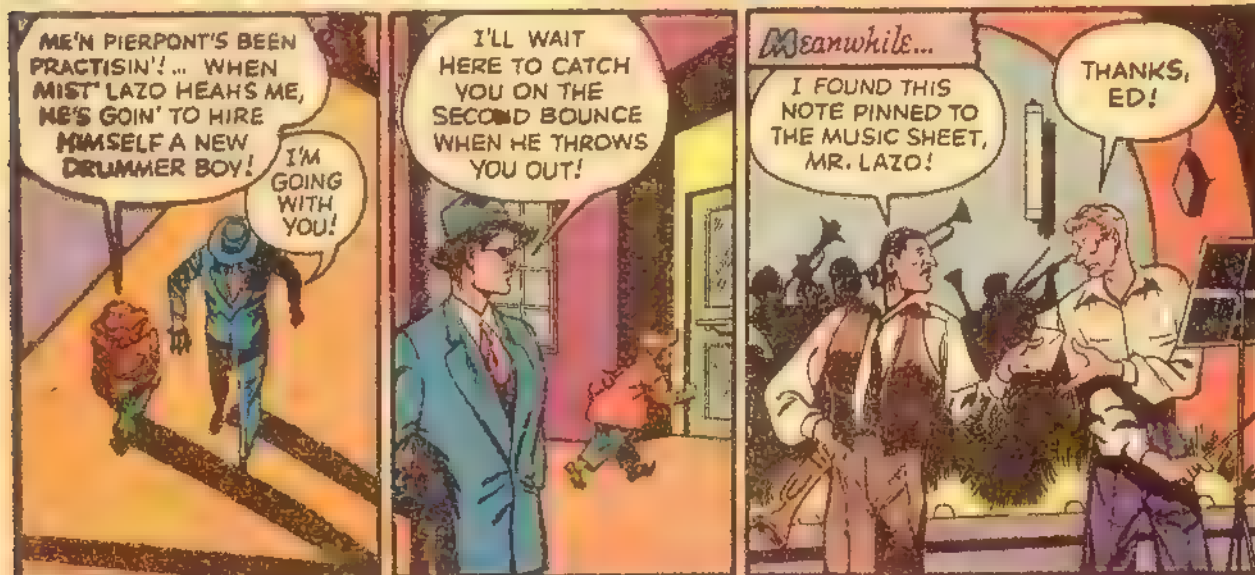
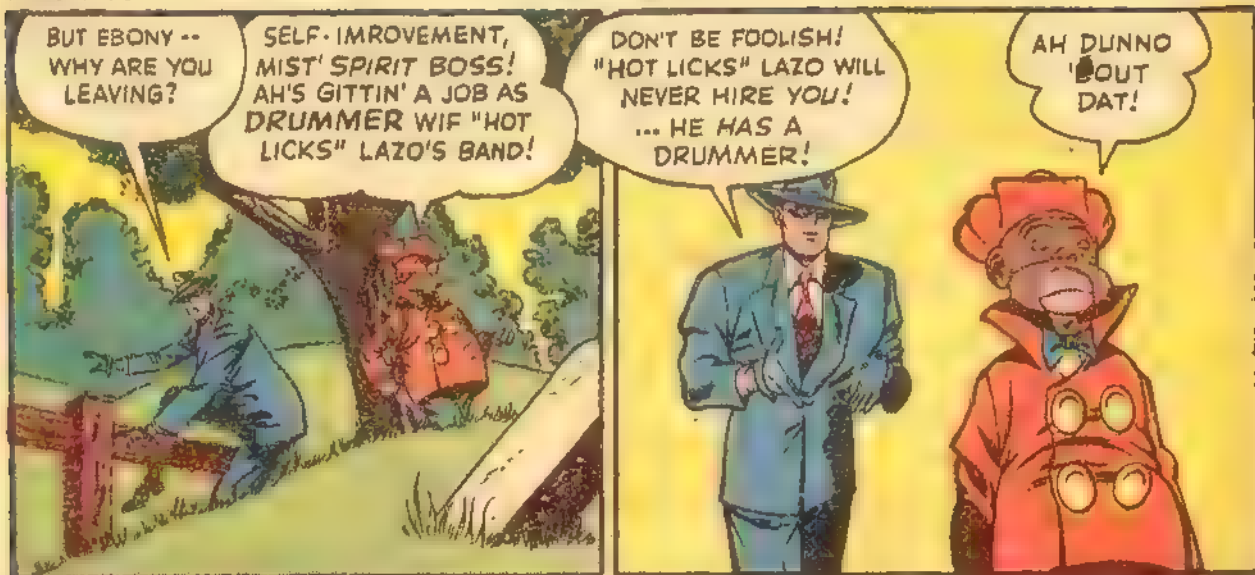
AND THAT
PRACTICALLY
CLOSES THIS
CASE!

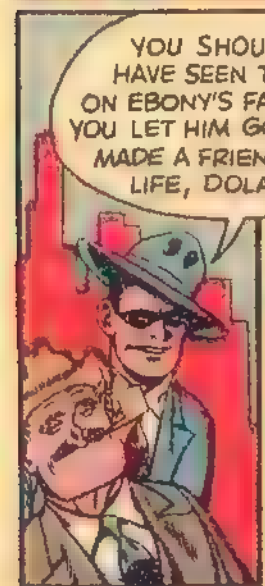
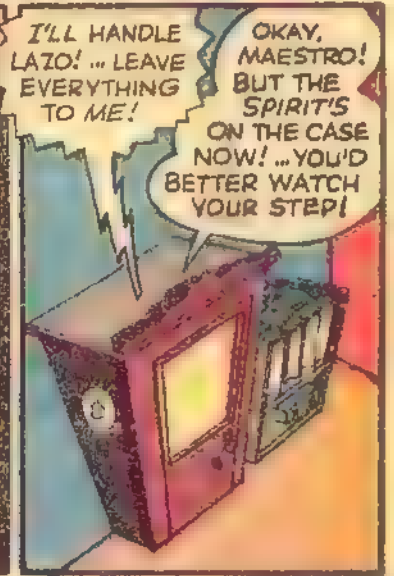
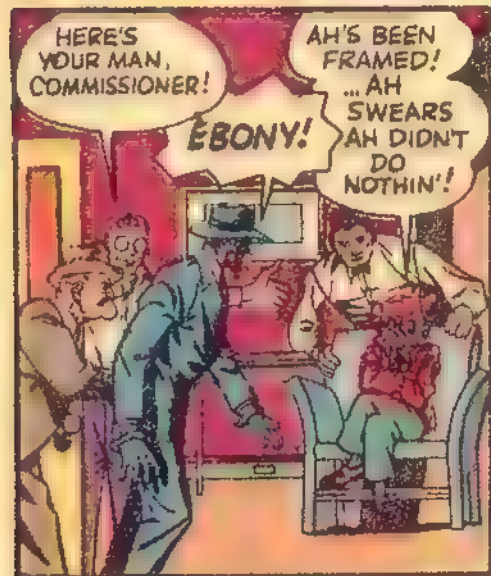
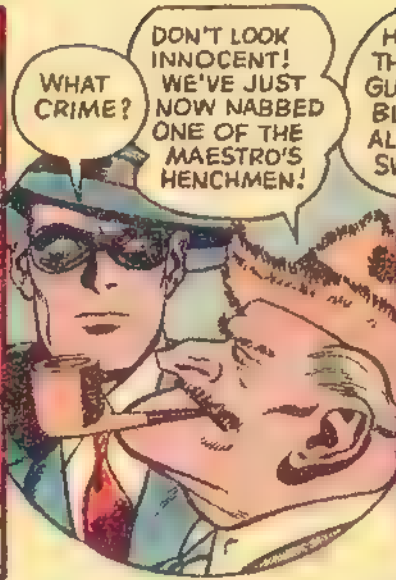
the SPIRIT

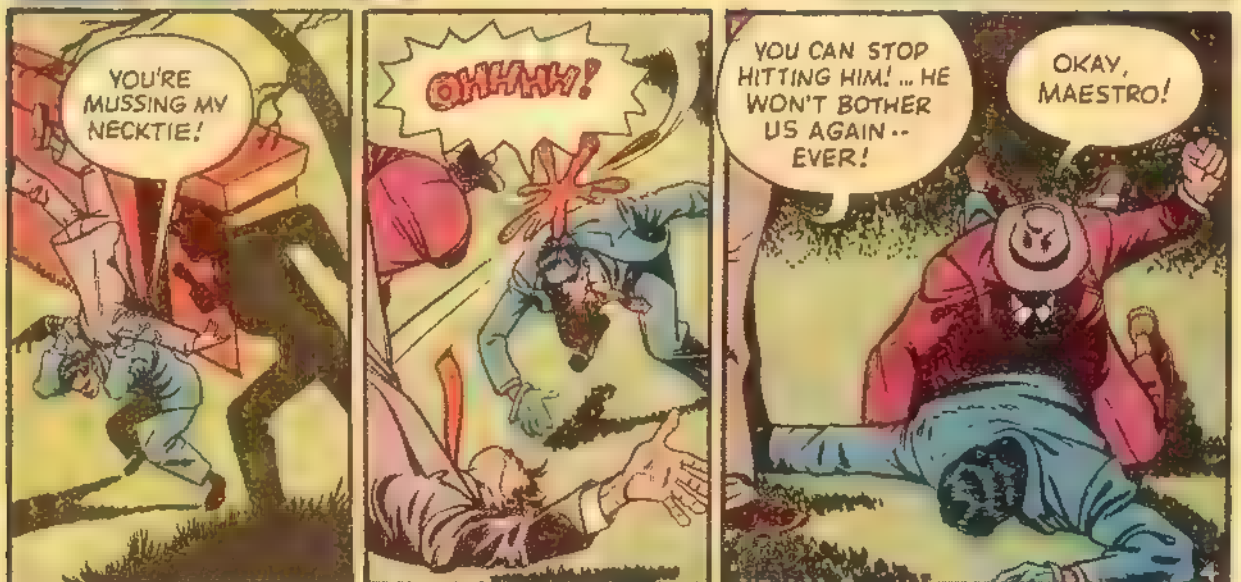
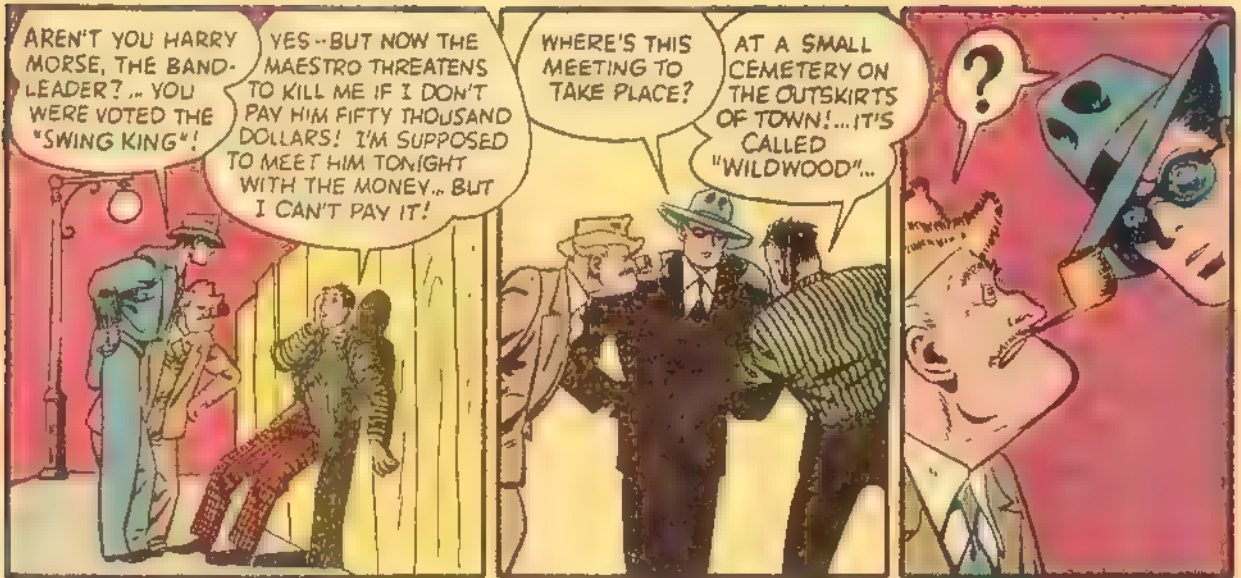
"B EAT ME, DADDY, EIGHT TO THE BAR " is music to Ebony's ears!...

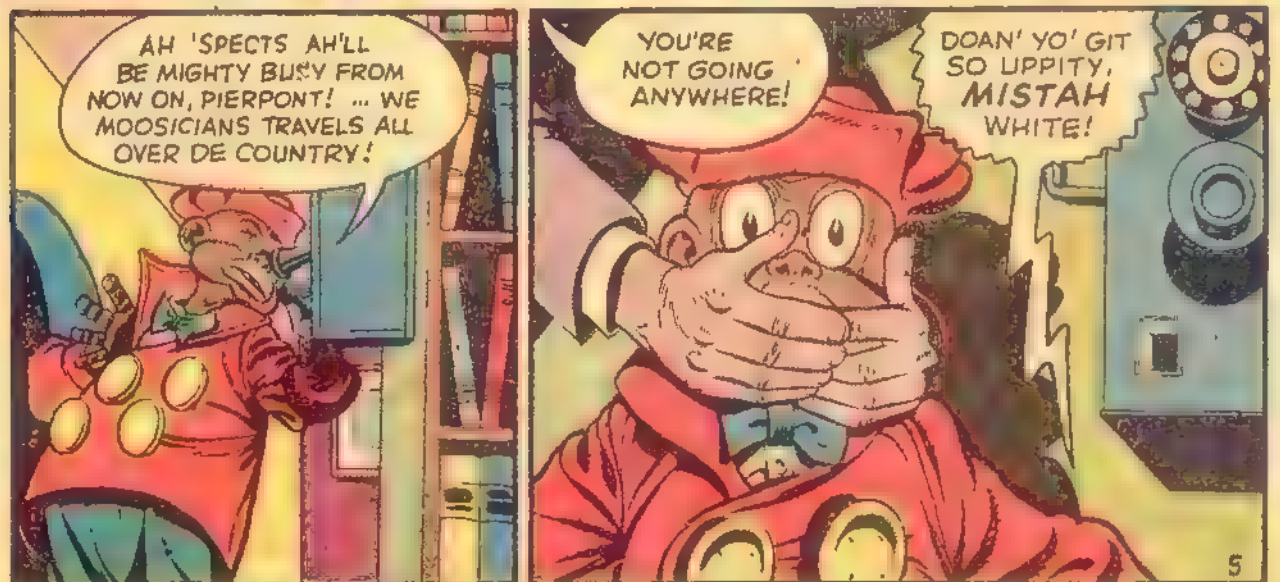
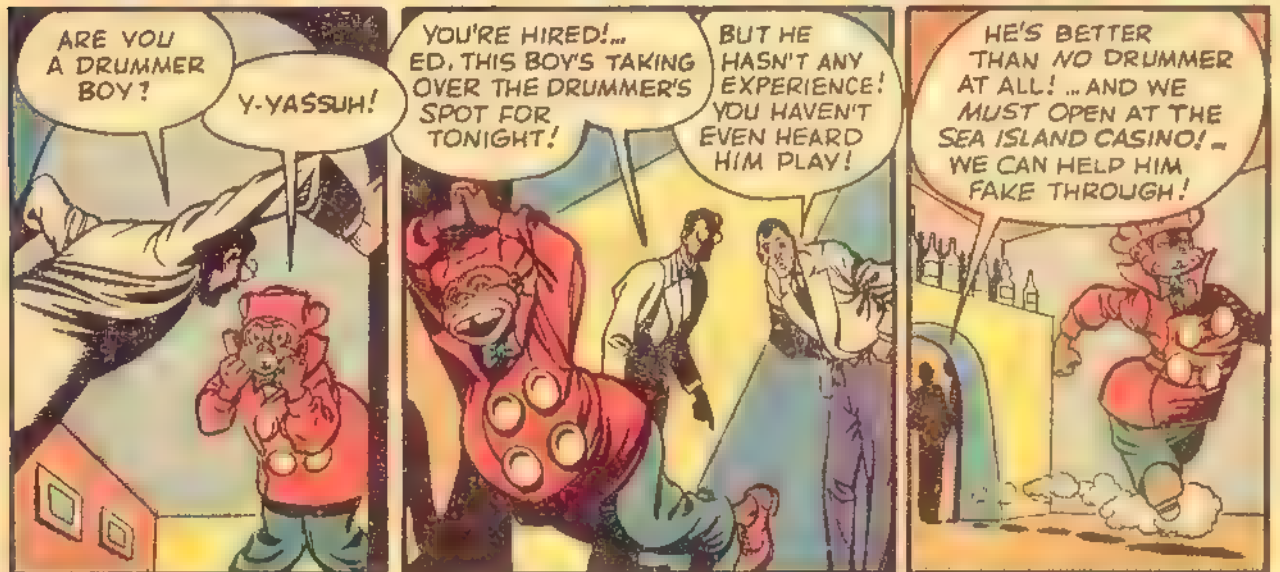
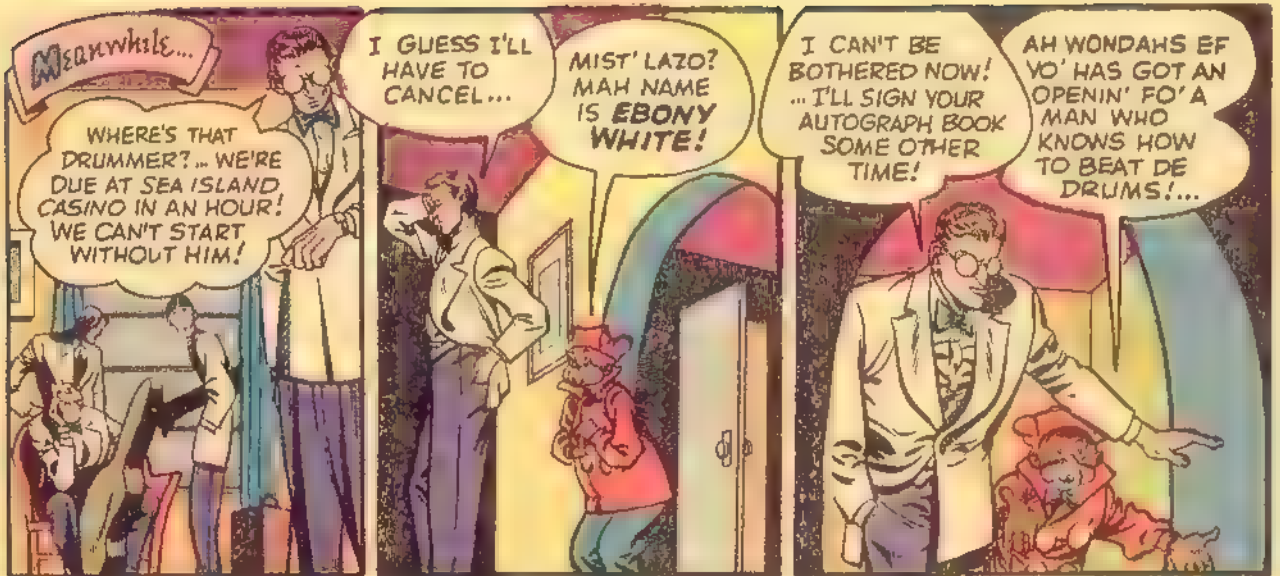
But with The SPIRIT leading the band, it's "PRISON BARS" that even the "score" with the "Maestro"!

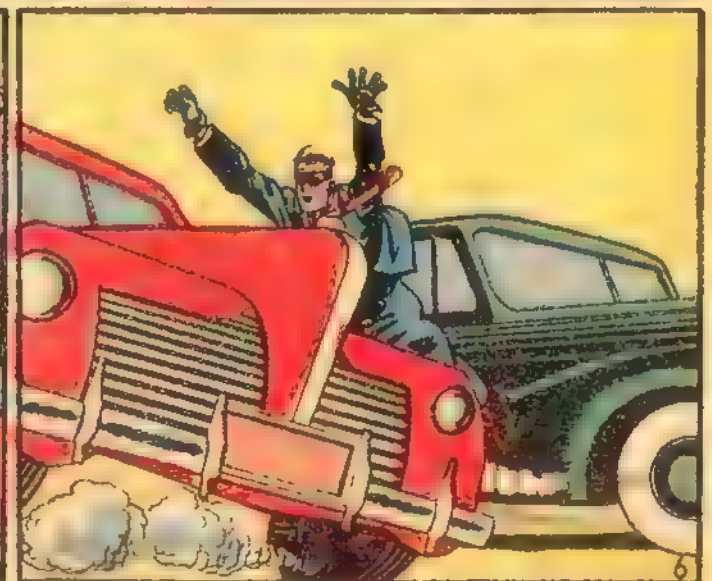
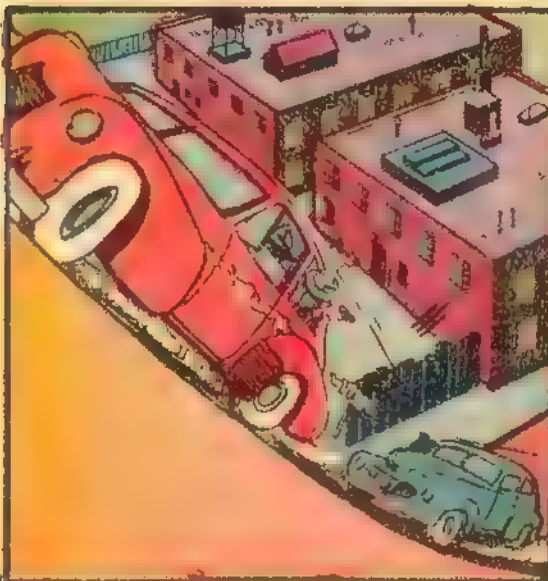


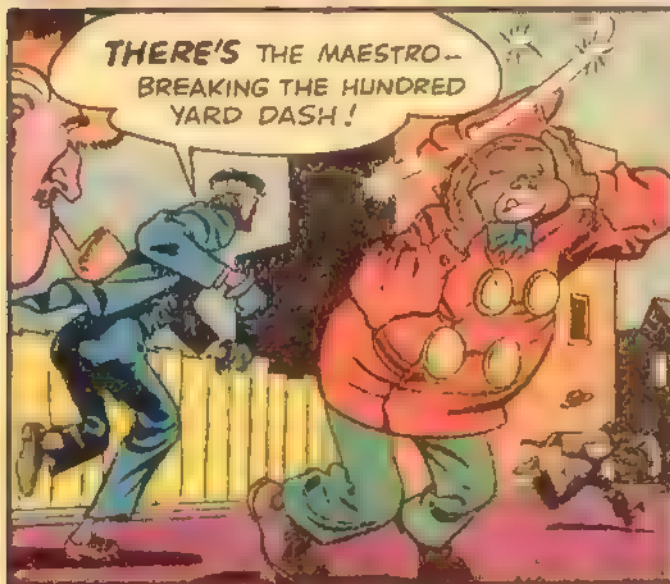
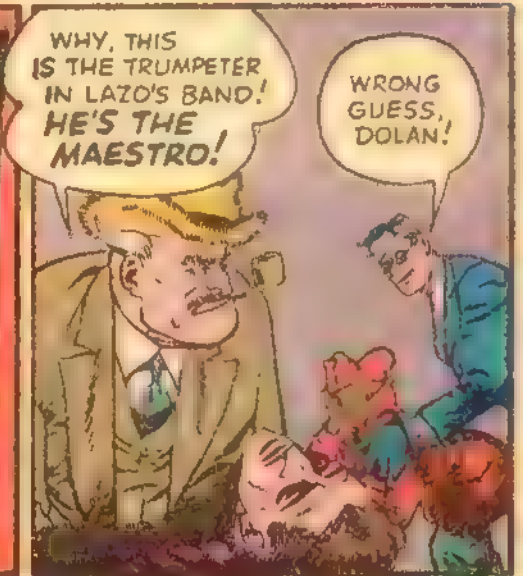
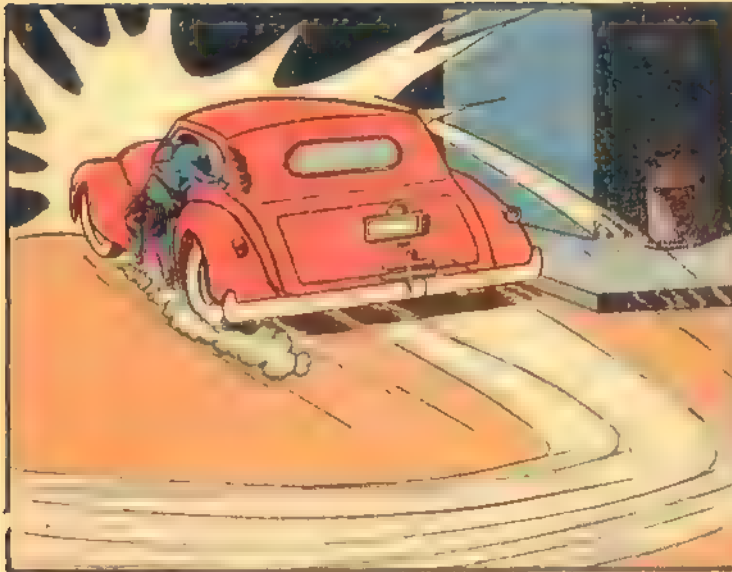


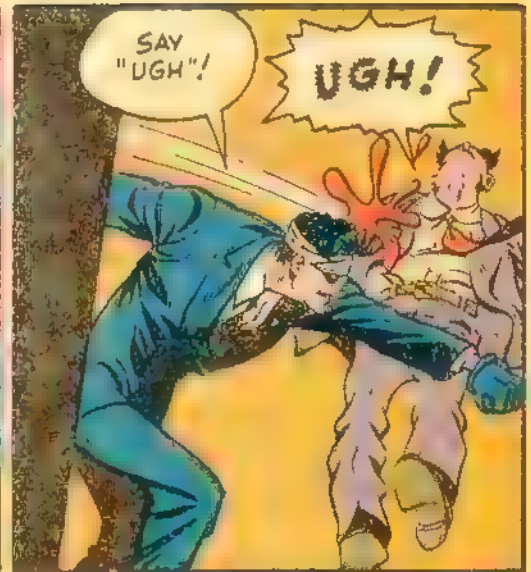




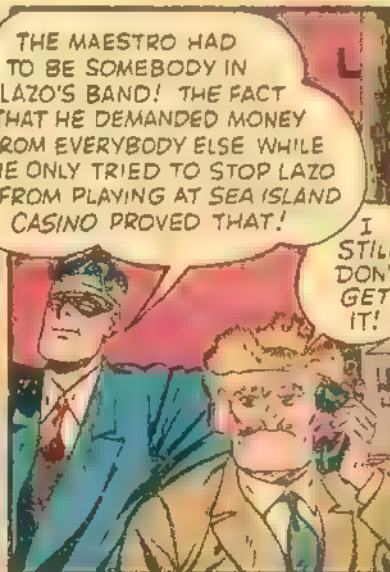






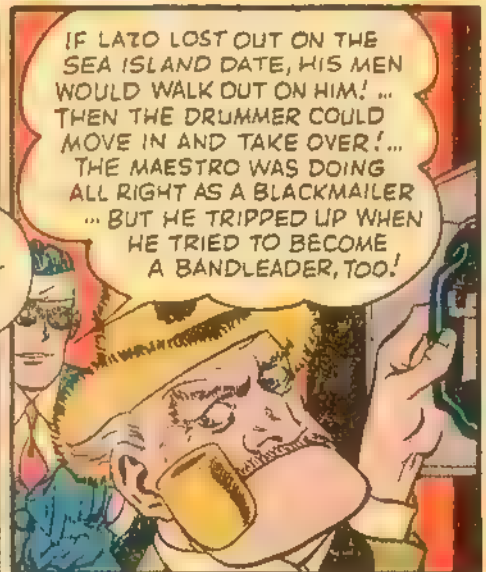


THIS IS THE MAESTRO! ... HE'S THE MISSING DRUMMER FROM "HOT LICKS" LAZO'S BAND!



THE MAESTRO HAD TO BE SOMEBODY IN LAZO'S BAND! THE FACT THAT HE DEMANDED MONEY FROM EVERYBODY ELSE WHILE HE ONLY TRIED TO STOP LAZO FROM PLAYING AT SEA ISLAND CASINO PROVED THAT!

I STILL DON'T GET IT!

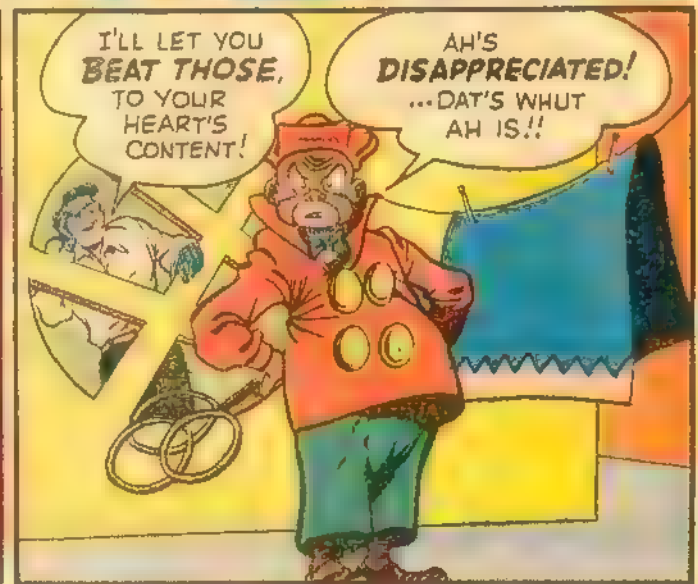


IF LAZO LOST OUT ON THE SEA ISLAND DATE, HIS MEN WOULD WALK OUT ON HIM! ... THEN THE DRUMMER COULD MOVE IN AND TAKE OVER! ... THE MAESTRO WAS DOING ALL RIGHT AS A BLACKMAILER ... BUT HE TRIPPED UP WHEN HE TRIED TO BECOME A BANDELEADER, TOO!



AH NEBER DID GET A CHANCE TO BEAT DE DRUMS! ... MAH CAREER WAS BLIGHTED IN DE BUD!

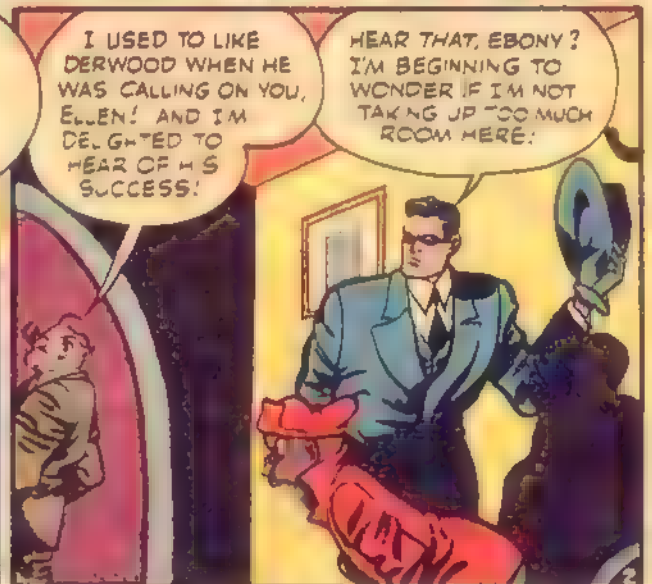
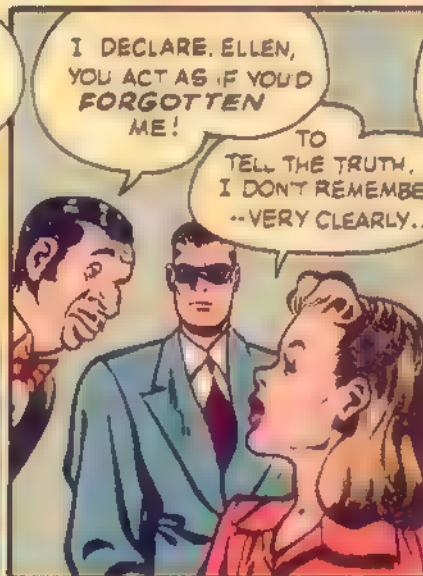
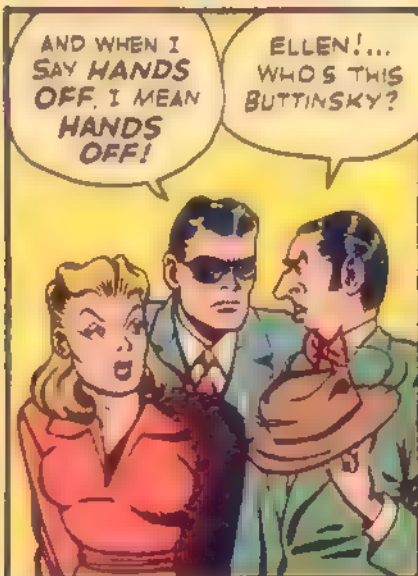
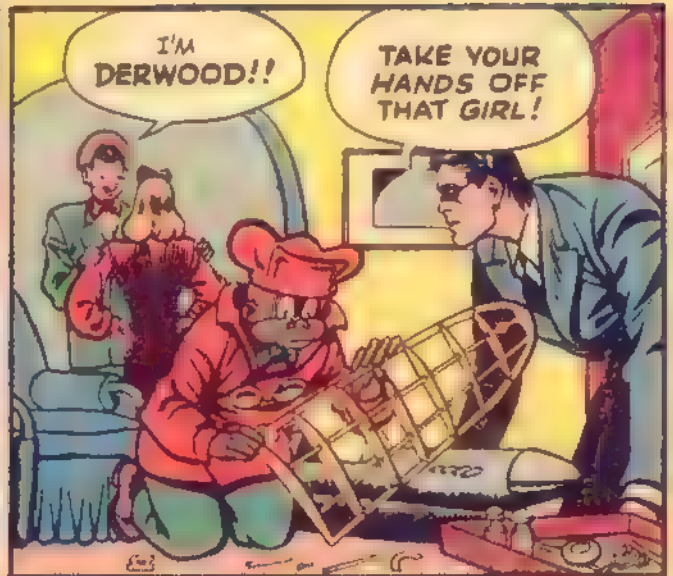
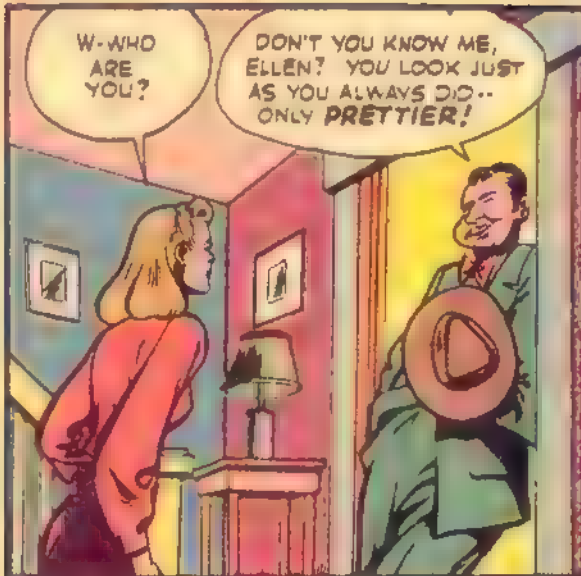
I HAVE JUST THE JOB FOR YOU, EBONY!



I'LL LET YOU BEAT THOSE, TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

AH'S DISAPPRECIATED! ... DAT'S WHUT AH IS!!

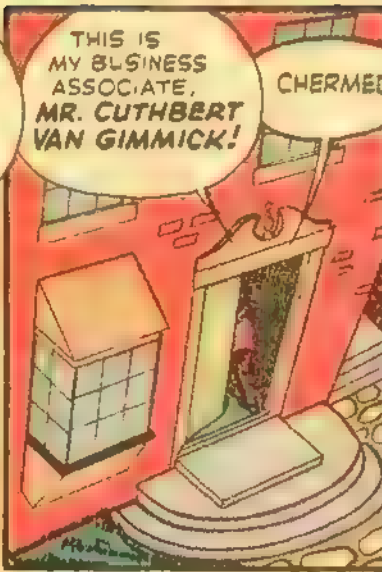






HUH! DON'T TELL ME DAT DERWOOD HAD DE **NOIVE** TO COME CALLIN ON **COMMISSIONER DOLAN** HISSELF!

CUTHBERT, MY DEAR FELLOW! ... COME IN AND MEET SOME **VERY CLOSE FRIENDS!**



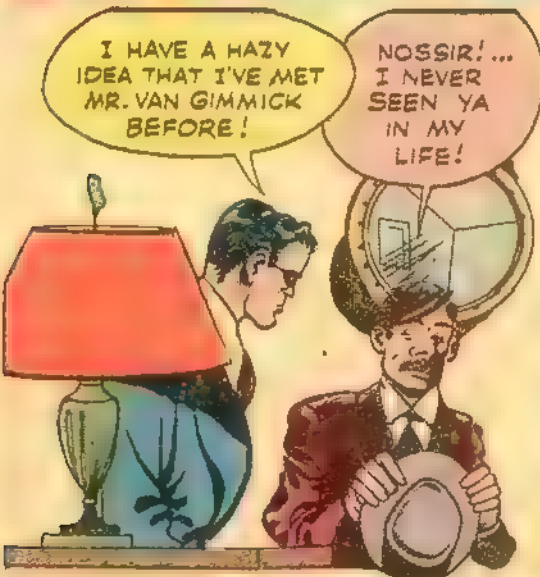
THIS IS MY BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, **MR. CUTHBERT VAN GIMMICK!**

CHERMED!



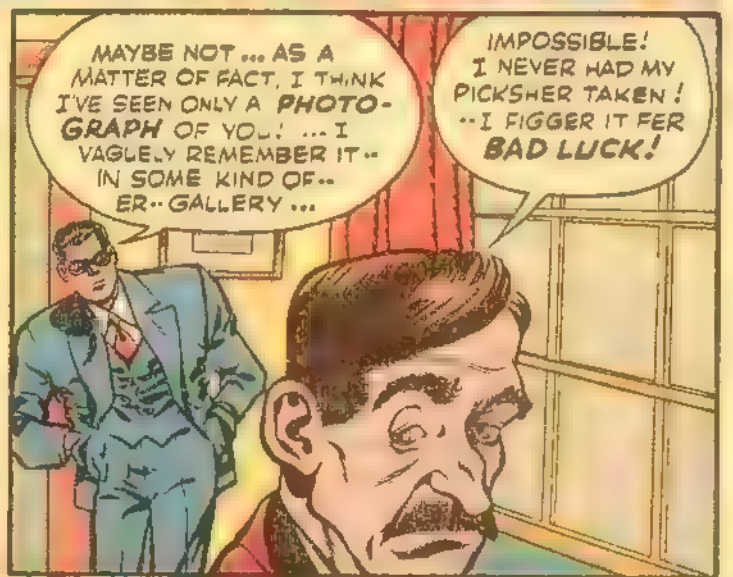
IS DIS DE BABE YA WANNA MARRY, DERWOOD? WELL, ALL I CAN SAY IS, YOU **SURE PICK 'EM!**

ER--MR. VAN GIMMICK, MAY I PRESENT **THE SPIRIT?**



I HAVE A HAZY IDEA THAT I'VE MET **MR. VAN GIMMICK** BEFORE!

NOSSIR! ... I NEVER SEEN YA IN MY LIFE!



MAYBE NOT ... AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK I'VE SEEN ONLY A **PHOTOGRAPH** OF YOU! ... I VAGUELY REMEMBER IT-- IN SOME KIND OF-- ER-- GALLERY ...

IMPOSSIBLE! I NEVER HAD MY PICKSHER TAKEN! --I FIGGER IT FER **BAD LUCK!**



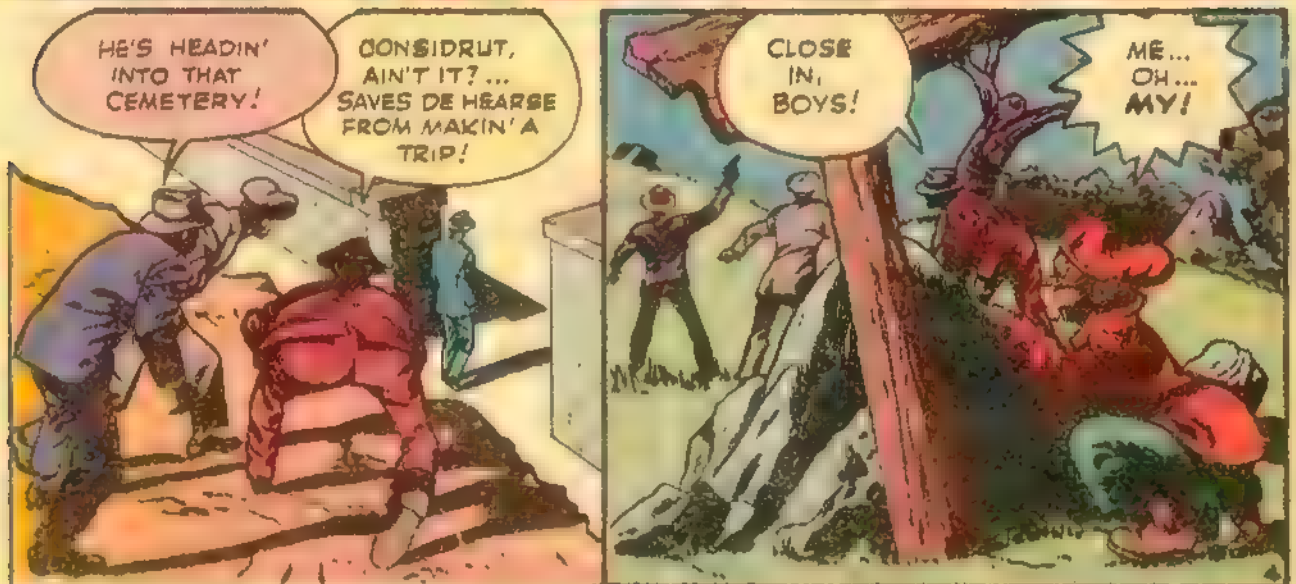
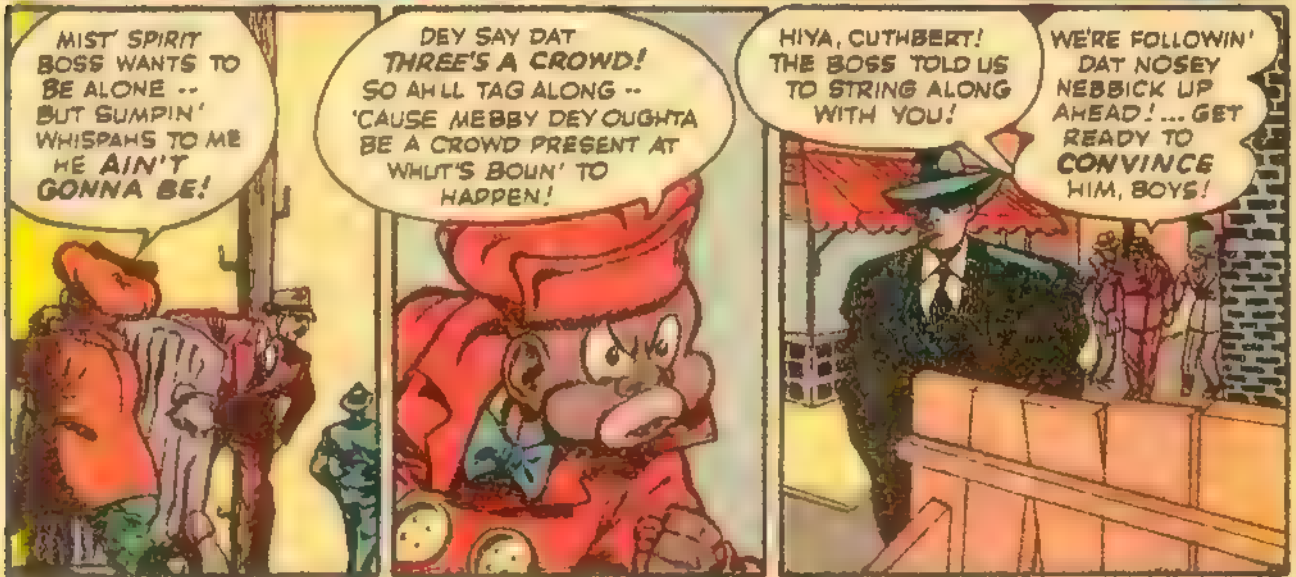
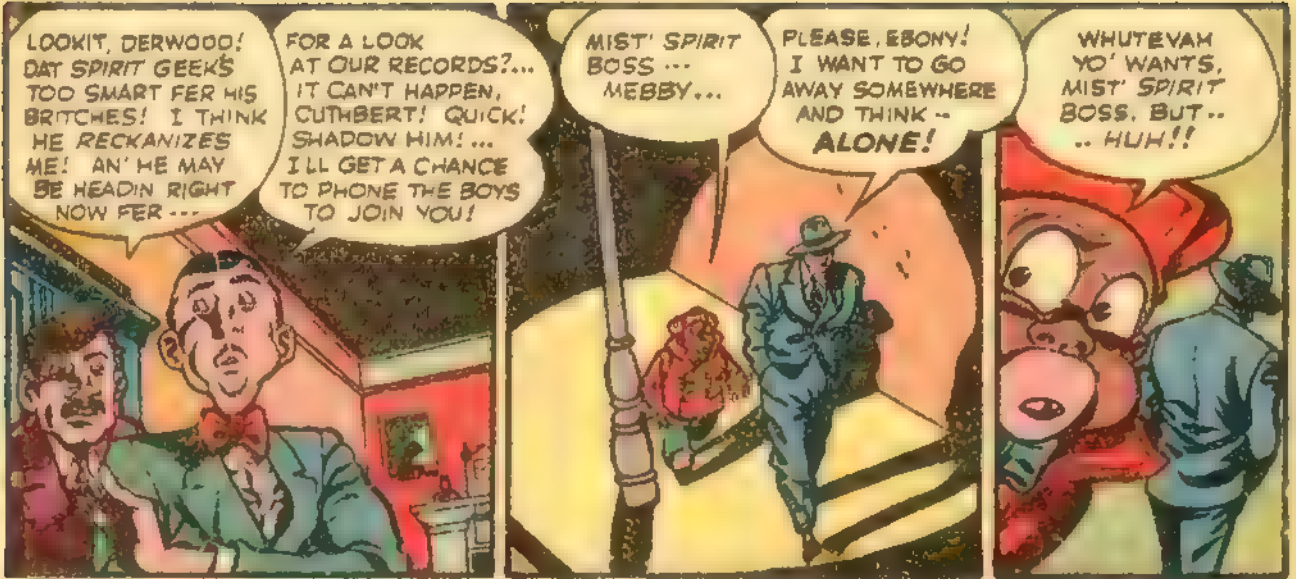
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR **CONCERT DATE, ELLEN!**

OH--I'M SORRY, BUT--YOU SEE ... DADDY HAS INVITED DERWOOD TO STAY FOR **DINNER!**



AND--SINCE HE CAME TO CALL ON ME, IT'S ONLY **COMMON COURTESY** THAT I STAY, TOO -- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

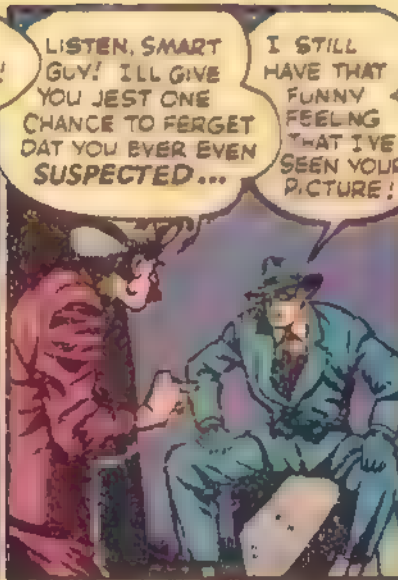
YES, I UNDERSTAND... **GOOD EVENING, ELLEN!**





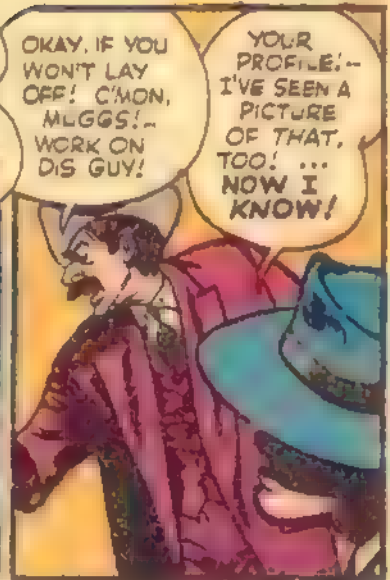
HEY, YOU!

OH... HELLO, MR. VAN GIMMICK!



LISTEN, SMART GUY! I'LL GIVE YOU JEST ONE CHANCE TO FERGET DAT YOU EYER EVEN SUSPECTED...

I STILL HAVE THAT FUNNY FEELING THAT I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE!



OKAY, IF YOU WON'T LAY OFF! C'MON, MUGGS!... WORK ON DIS GUY!

YOUR PROFILE!... I'VE SEEN A PICTURE OF THAT, TOO! ... NOW I KNOW!



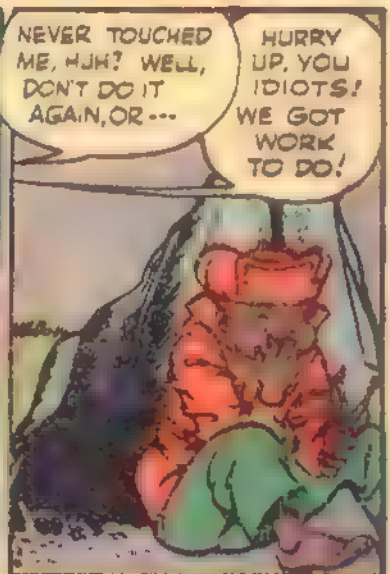
THE GALLERY WHERE I SAW YOUR PHOTO WAS THE ROGUES' GALLERY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS! YOU'RE A CRIMINAL-- AND WANTED!

YOU KIN TALK IT OVER WIT' ME TWO JUNIOR PARTNERS! HERE DEY COME!



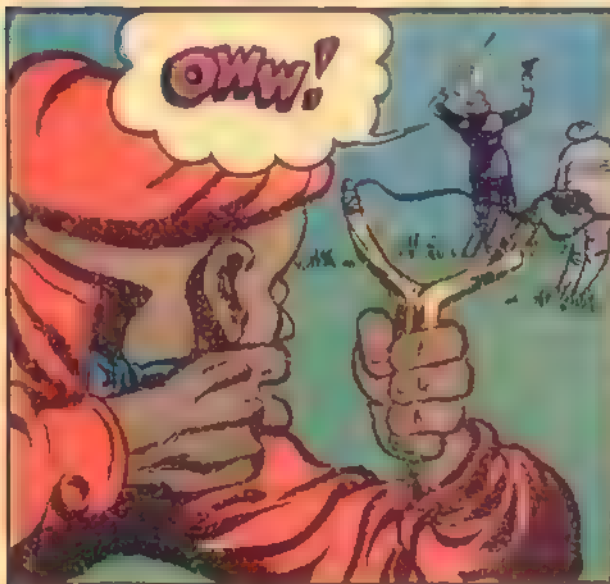
HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF SOCKIN' ME?

WHATCHA TALKIN' ABOUT? I NEVER TOUCHED YUH!



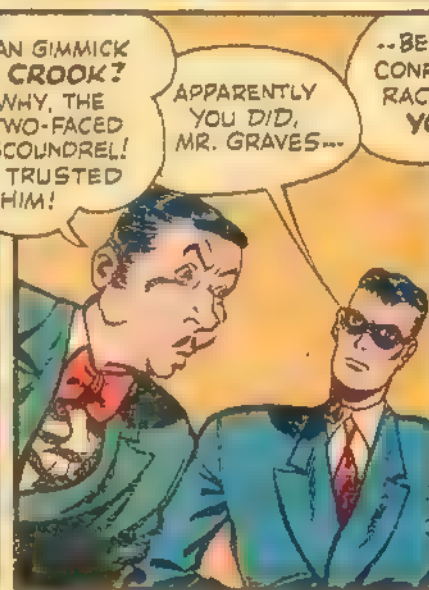
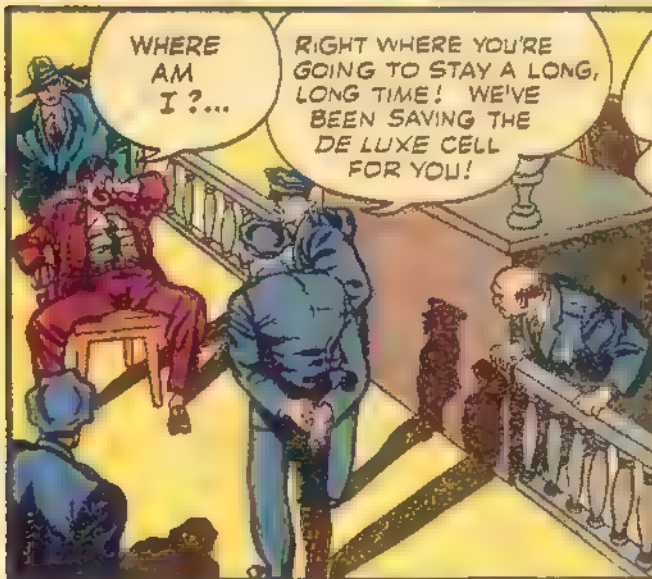
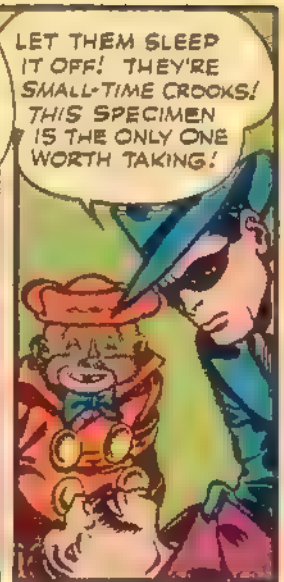
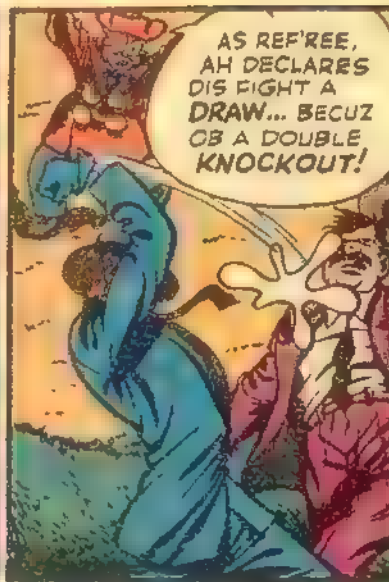
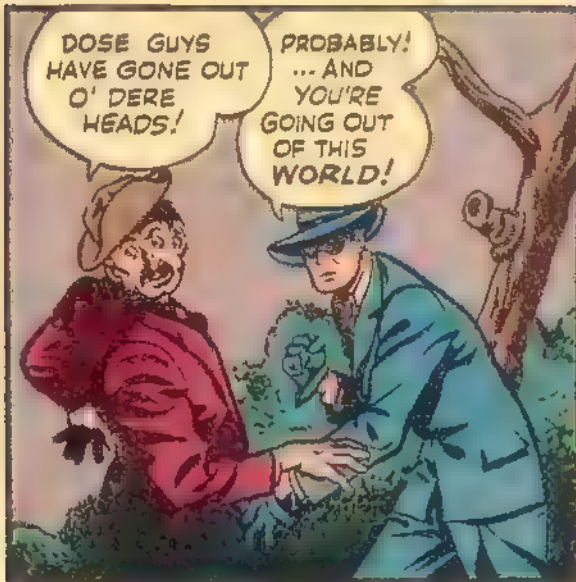
NEVER TOUCHED ME, HUH? WELL, DON'T DO IT AGAIN, OR...

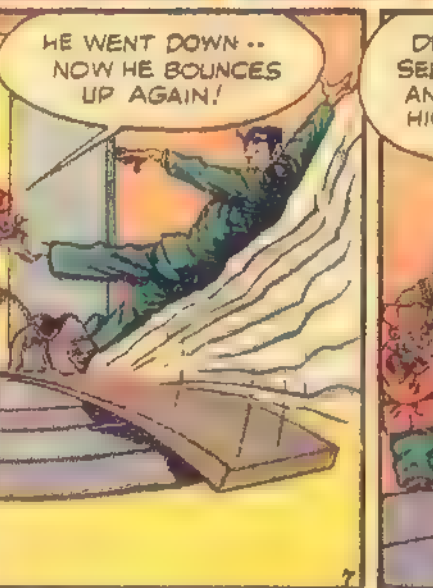
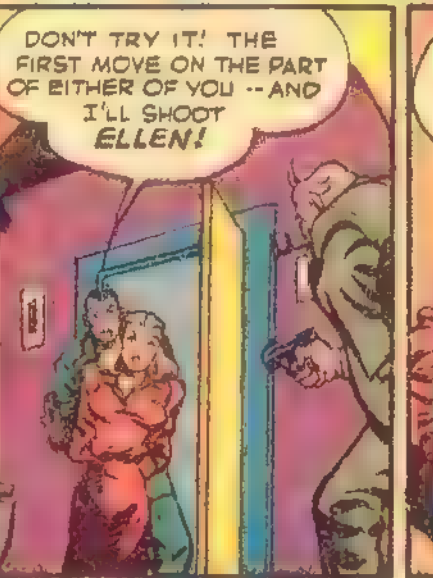
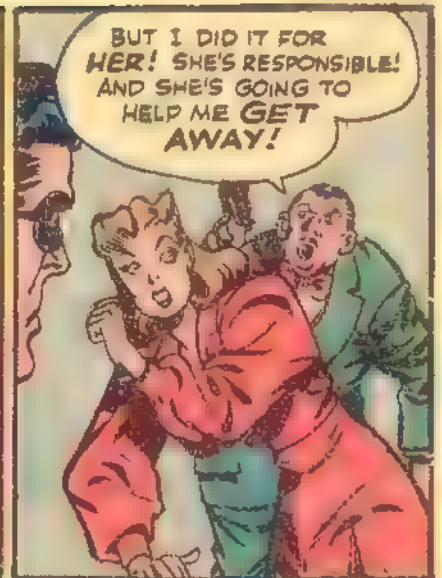
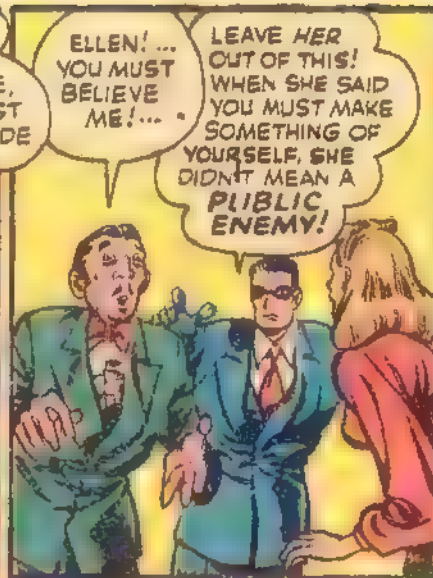
HURRY UP, YOU IDIOTS! WE GOT WORK TO DO!



OWW!

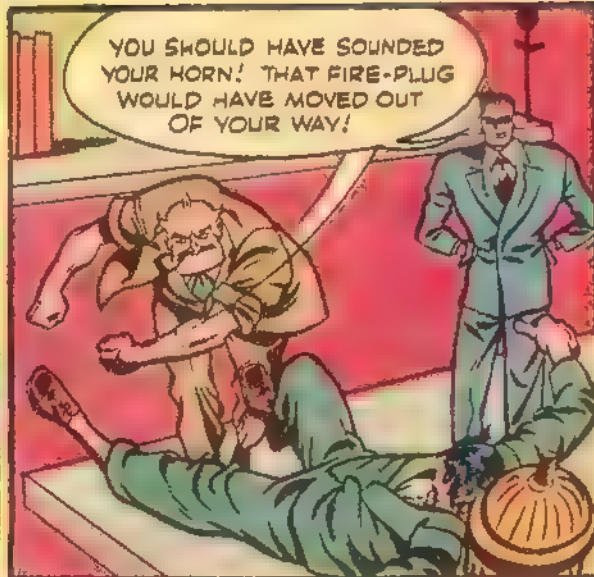




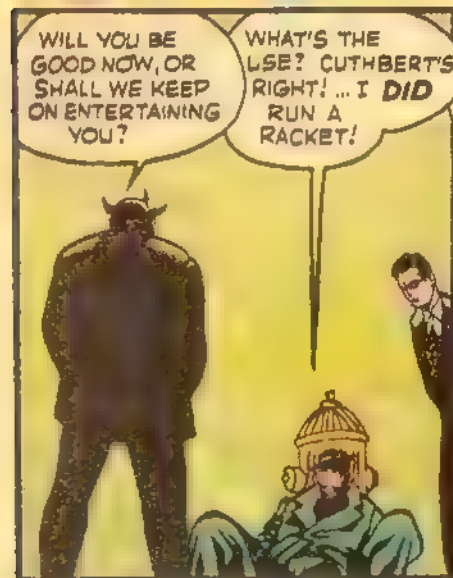




TAKE A SPIN, MY FRIEND! IT MAY CLEAR YOUR HEAD!



YOU SHOULD HAVE SOUNDED YOUR HORN! THAT FIRE-PLUG WOULD HAVE MOVED OUT OF YOUR WAY!



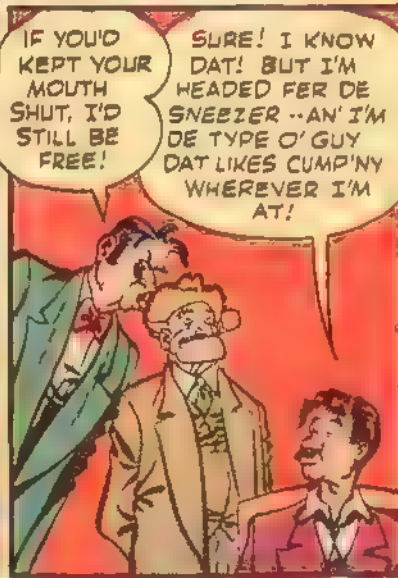
WILL YOU BE GOOD NOW, OR SHALL WE KEEP ON ENTERTAINING YOU?

WHAT'S THE USE? CUTHBERT'S RIGHT! ... I DID RUN A RACKET!



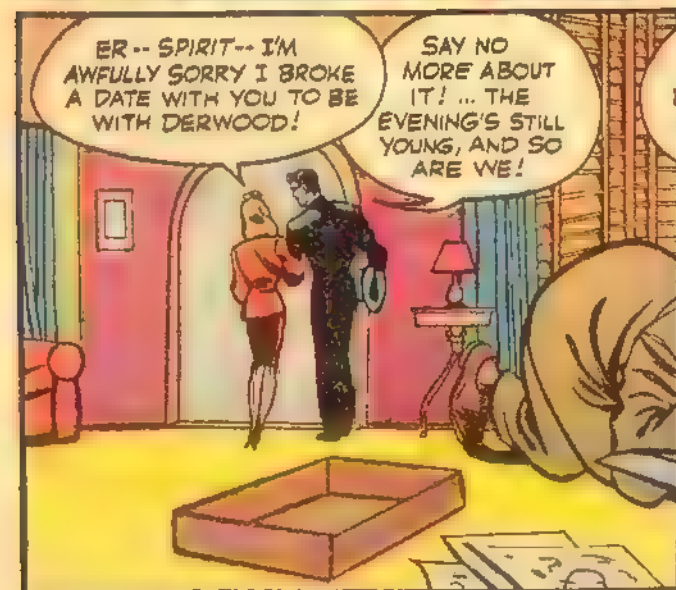
GET THAT CONFESSION TYPED UP FOR THIS MAN TO SIGN!

HELLO, DERWOOD! I JEST BIN DICTATIN' ME MEMOIRS!



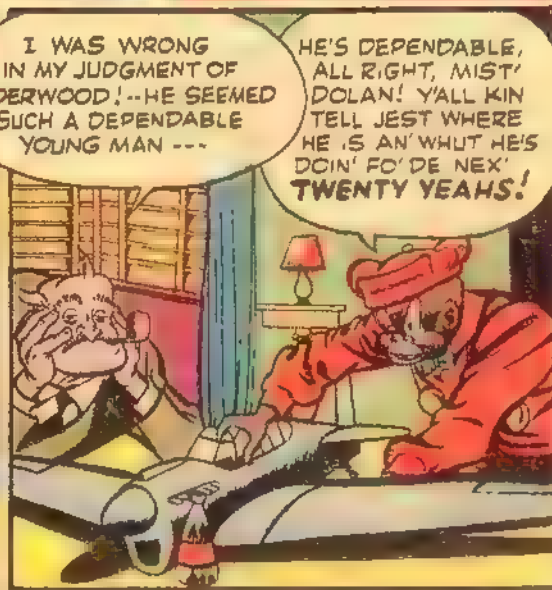
IF YOU'D KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT, I'D STILL BE FREE!

SURE! I KNOW DAT! BUT I'M HEADED FER DE SNEEZER --AN' I'M DE TYPE O' GUY DAT LIKES CUMP'NY WHEREVER I'M AT!



ER-- SPIRIT-- I'M AWFULLY SORRY I BROKE A DATE WITH YOU TO BE WITH DERWOOD!

SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT! ... THE EVENING'S STILL YOUNG, AND SO ARE WE!



I WAS WRONG IN MY JUDGMENT OF DERWOOD!--HE SEEMED SUCH A DEPENDABLE YOUNG MAN ---

HE'S DEPENDABLE, ALL RIGHT, MIST' DOLAN! Y'ALL KIN TELL JEST WHERE HE IS AN' WHUT HE'S DOIN' FO' DE NEX' TWENTY YEARS!

The SPIRIT



Only Commissioner Dolan knows that THE SPIRIT is really Denny Colt, long believed dead...

Will Eisner

CLASS OF '35...

WILLIAM BRANDE,
CLASS POET...
HIS VERSE MAY BE
AS NINE, BUT WE ALL
LOVE HIS SISTER...
OH, SO D.V.N.E!

ROGER RANDOLPH,
CLASS ATHLETE...
IF BRAINS HAD BICEPS,
"RAJ" WOULD BE
MUSCLE-BOUND...
ASK "STEADY ED"!

EDWARD R. STEAD,
CLASS SCHOLAR...
"STEADY ED" ...OUR
BET FOR MOST LIKELY
TO SUCCEED!

DENNY COLT,
CLASS WISEMAN...
BELOVED BY ALL DENNY'S
OUR CLASS STANDOUT! IF
YOU'RE IN A JAM, HE'LL
HELP YOU OUT! HATS
OFF TO YOU, DENNY!



MY COLLEGE CLASS REUNION!
STRANGE HOW FAMILIAR THEIR
FACES...EVEN AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS...

Dear Classmate:
You are hereby
invited to attend
the Tenth Annual
Reunion of our class,
at the Waldorf Towers...
Dress Formal...

Wm Edward R. Stead
79 Park Ave
City

STRANGER STILL THAT THEY
HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME...



BILL BRANDE... HE ONLY STOOD OUT BECAUSE OF HIS SISTER, MARION! YES, THEY ALL LOVED HER... I OUGHT TO KNOW!

ROGER RANDOLPH -- "THE RAJ"! "ASK STEADY ED," EH? ASK ME? HE LOVED HER, TOO -- CURSE HIS BLASTED BLACK SOUL!

I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!!

I WOULD HAVE KILLED RAJ BUT FOR YOU, DENNY! ... IN THIS BOOK WE WERE SIDE BY SIDE, AND SO WE WERE IN SCHOOL -- UNTIL THAT DAY---

"WHEN WE BEGAN TAKING OUR 'MORNING' CLASS"

"ROGER KNEW I HATED HIM FOR LYING TO MARION ABOUT ME... TURNING HER AGAINST ME. BUT STILL HE -----"

PSST! ED! WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION?

CRIBBING'S NOT HONORABLE! I WON'T TELL YOU!

I KNOW, I KNOW! BUT IF YOU DON'T, I'LL FLUNK OUT! I WON'T GRADUATE! ED. HAVE A HEART! PLEASE, ED ---

"WHAT MADE ME GIVE IN TO HIM I'LL NEVER KNOW! BUT I SCRIBBLED MY ANSWER AND SLIPPED IT TO HIM..."



HERE!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS ED-- NEVER!



"I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, ED, ... BUT LATER, AFTER THE EXAM, IN THE SUGAR BOWL ---"

BUT, MARION, YOU PROMISE TO GO TO THE PROM WITH ME--

WITH YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH... NOT AFTER WHAT RAJ'S TOLD ME ABOUT YOU!



"AND THEN IT HAPPENED! PROFESSOR MANLEY SENT FOR RAJ AND ME ---"

BOTH OF THESE PAPERS SHOW THE SAME ERRORS! OBVIOUSLY, ONE OF YOU COPIED! SPEAK UP-- THIS IS SERIOUS!



I HATE TO SAY THIS, PROFESSOR-- BUT ED COPIED FROM ME! I WARNED HIM, BUT---

WHY, YOU DIRTY--

MR. STEAD! REPORT TO THE DEAN'S OFFICE-- AT ONCE!



"IT DIDN'T TAKE THE DEAN LONG TO MAKE UP HIS MIND... IN FACT, AS I REMEMBER, IT TOOK HIM ONLY FIVE MINUTES..."

MR. STEAD, YOU WILL PACK YOUR THINGS AND BE OFF THE COLLEGE GROUNDS WITHIN THE HOUR!

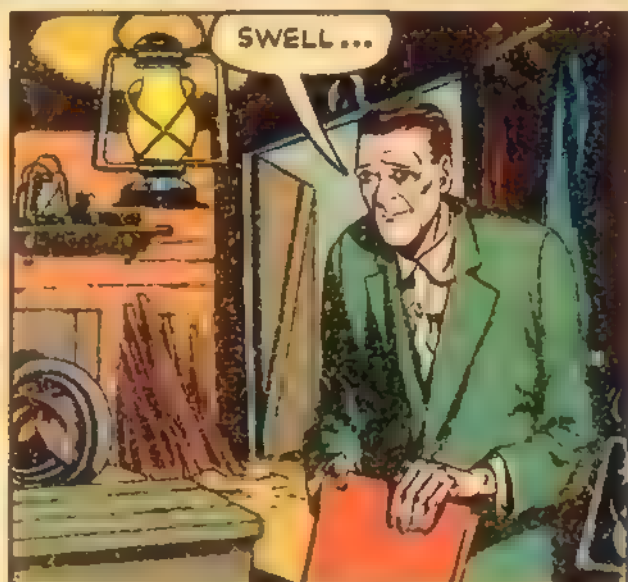
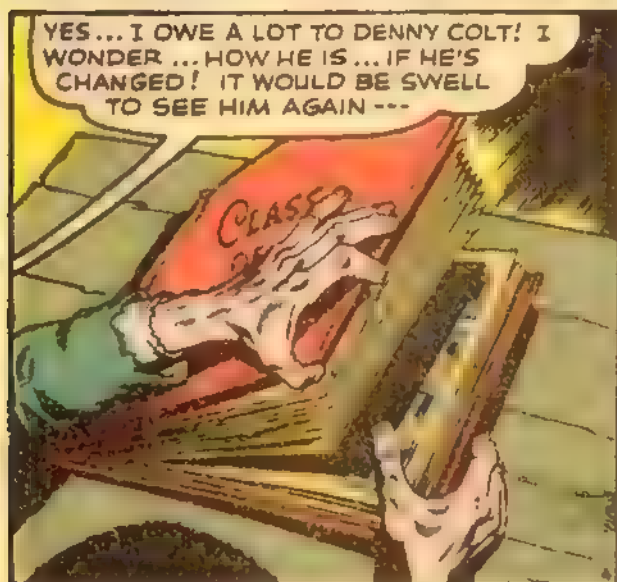


"MY MIND WAS A BLANK-- I WALKED TOWARD THE DORM TO PACK MY THINGS, WHEN---

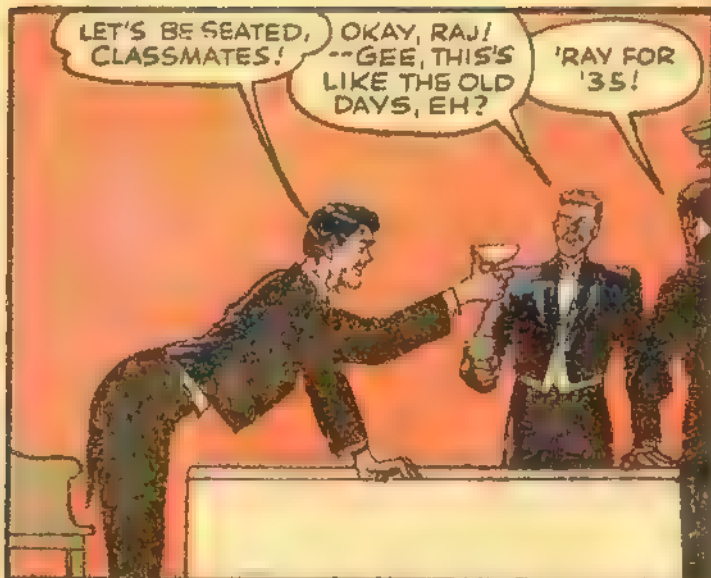
THE EXAM CRIBBER! HA-HA-HA!

I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVER COULD HAVE LIKED HIM!





AND SO WE TURN TO THE WALDORP TOWERS, THAT NIGHT



LET'S BE SEATED, CLASSMATES!

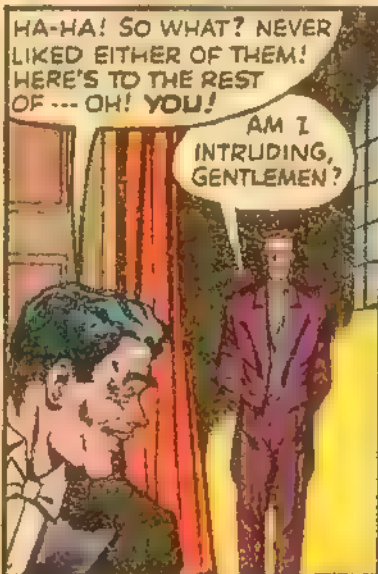
OKAY, RAJ! --GEE, THIS'S LIKE THE OLD DAYS, EH?

'RAY FOR '35!



TWO OF US AREN'T HERE, FELLOWS!

DENNY'S DEAD... AND ED DISAPPEARED AFTER ---

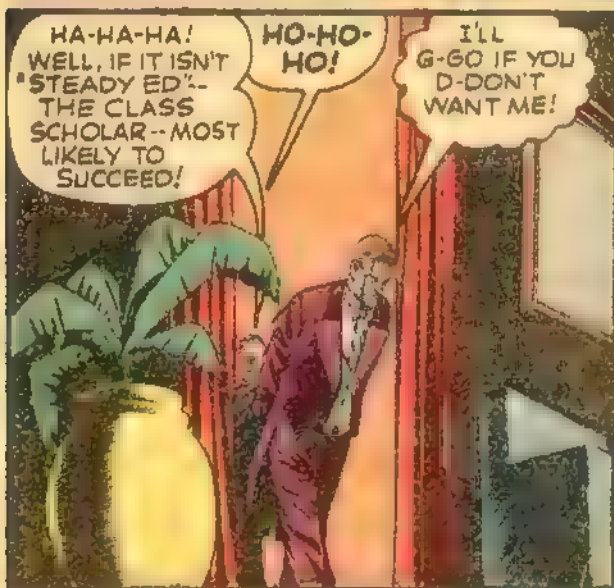


HA-HA! SO WHAT? NEVER LIKED EITHER OF THEM! HERE'S TO THE REST OF --- OH! YOU!

AM I INTRUDING, GENTLEMEN?



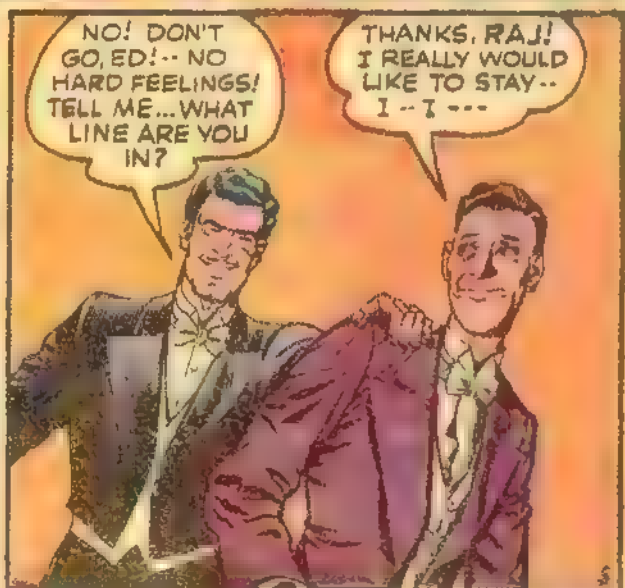
NICE OF YOU BOYS TO INVITE ME... THANK YOU VERY MUCH ... WHY --WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER?--



HA-HA-HA! WELL, IF IT ISN'T 'STEADY ED'-- THE CLASS SCHOLAR-- MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED!

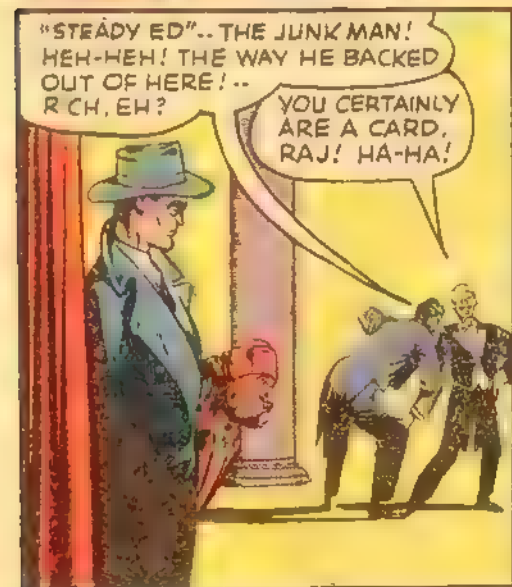
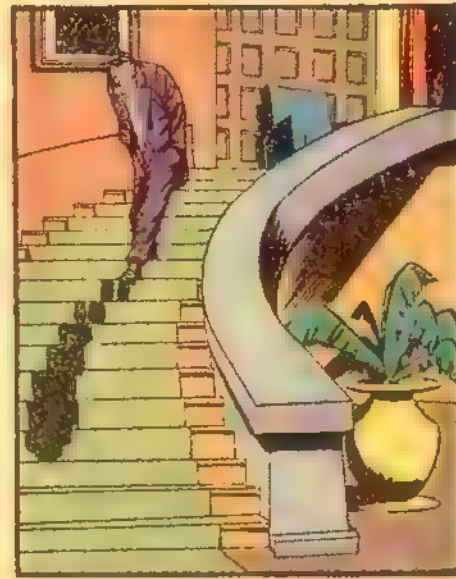
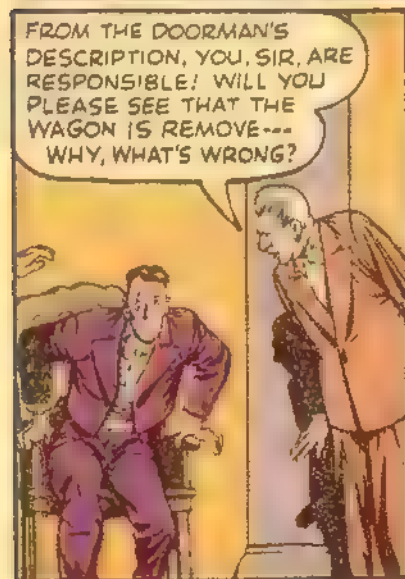
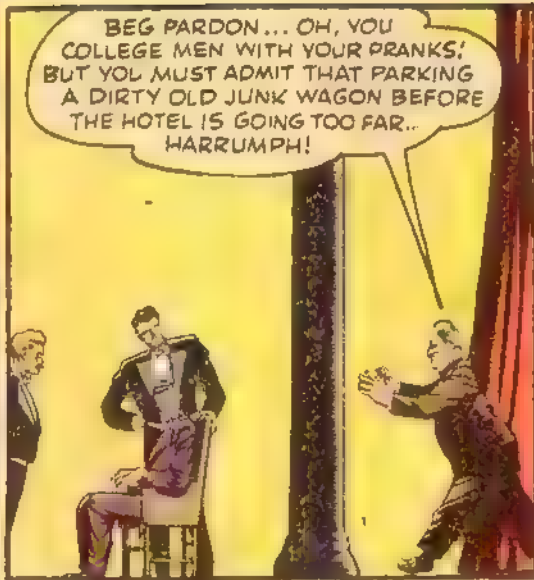
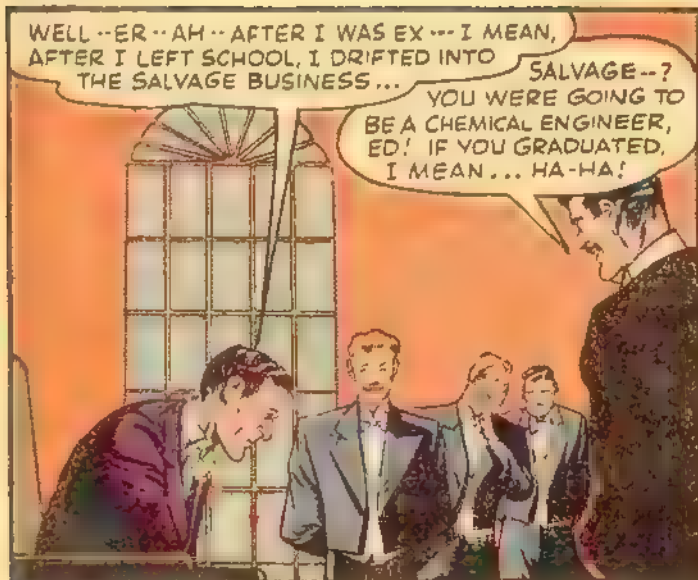
HO-HO-HO!

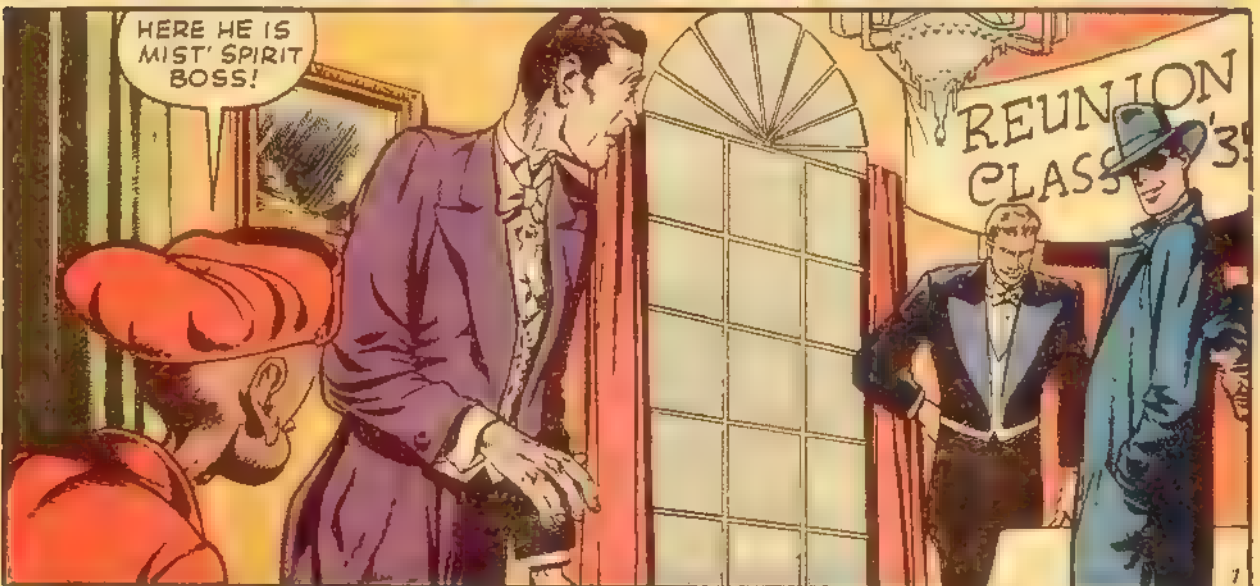
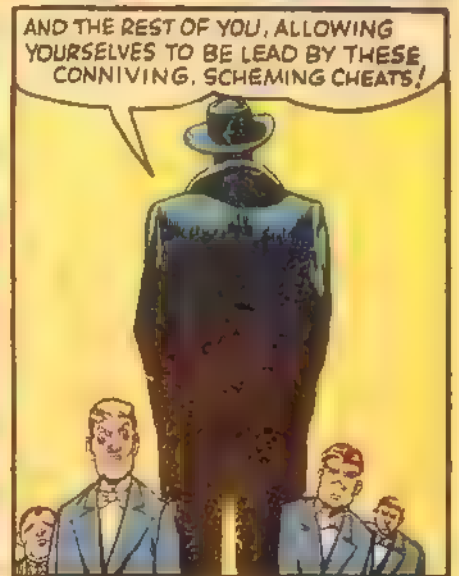
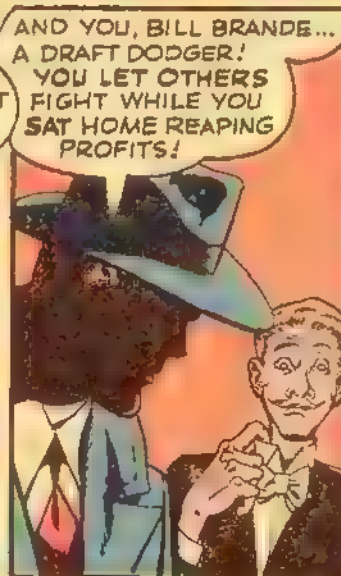
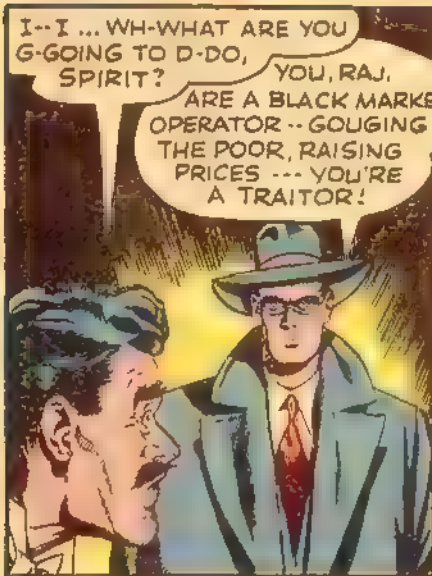
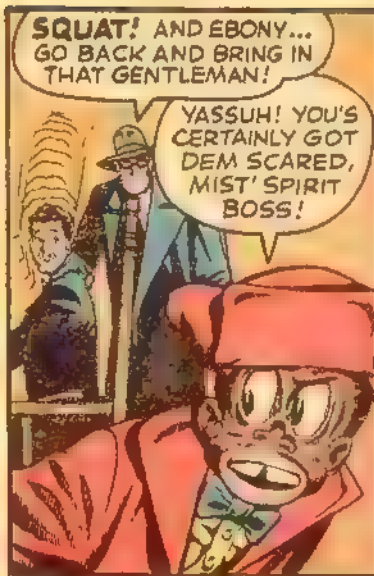
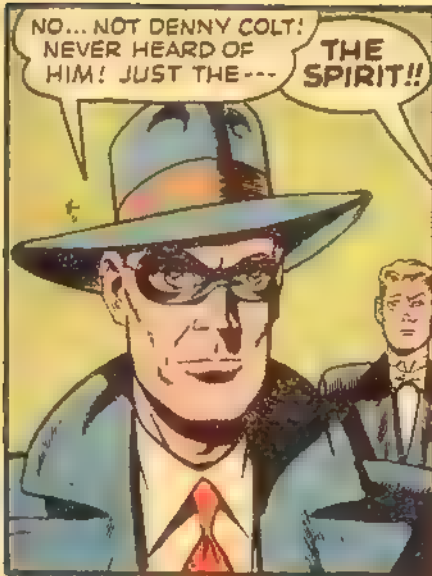
I'LL G-GO IF YOU D-DON'T WANT ME!

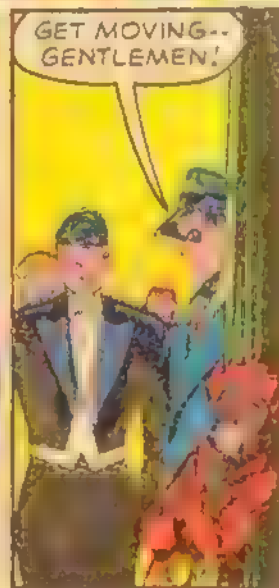
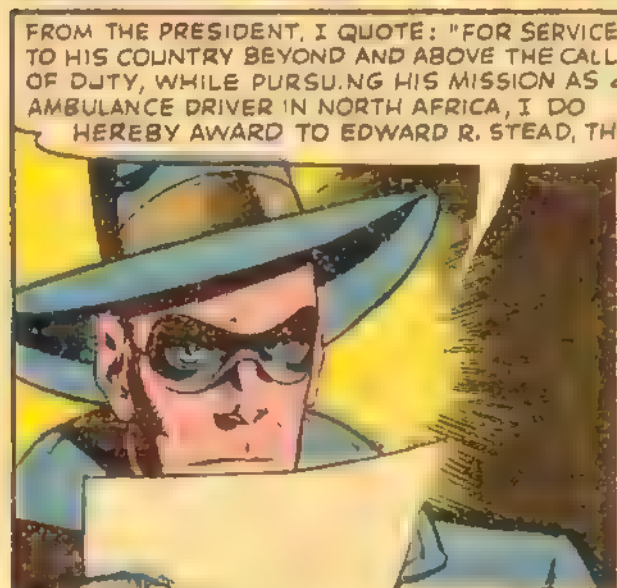


NO! DON'T GO, ED!-- NO HARD FEELINGS! TELL ME... WHAT LINE ARE YOU IN?

THANKS, RAJ! I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO STAY-- I -- I ---







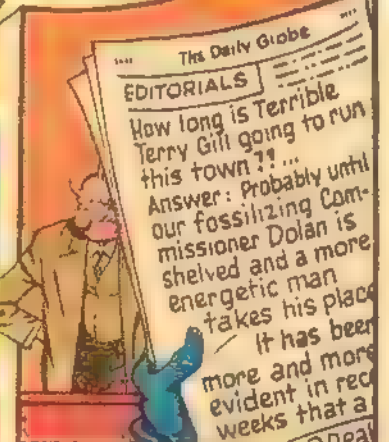
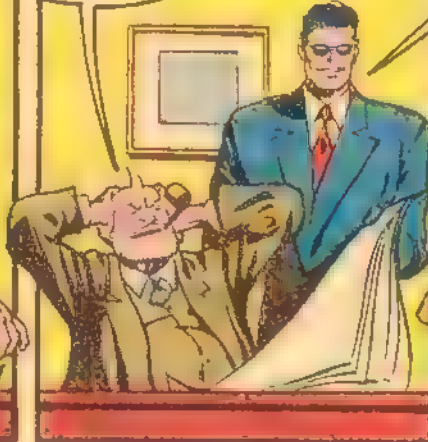


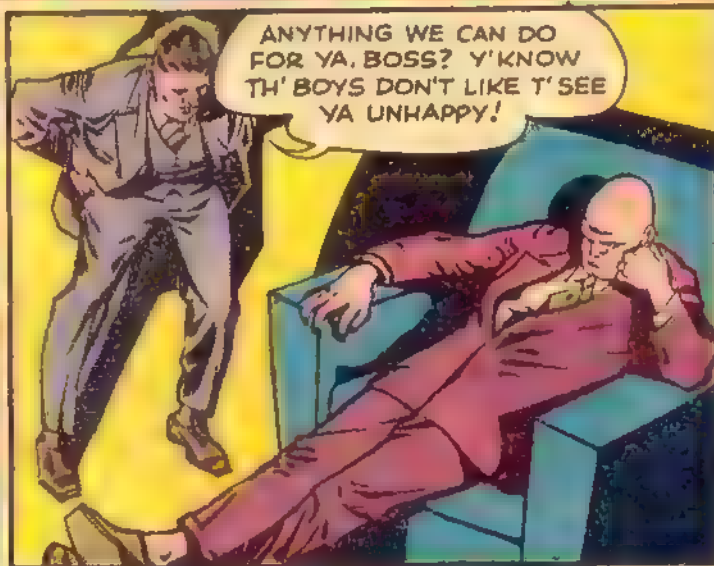
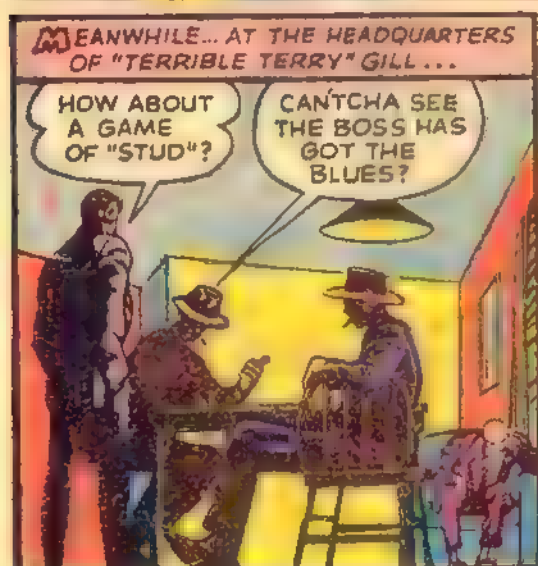
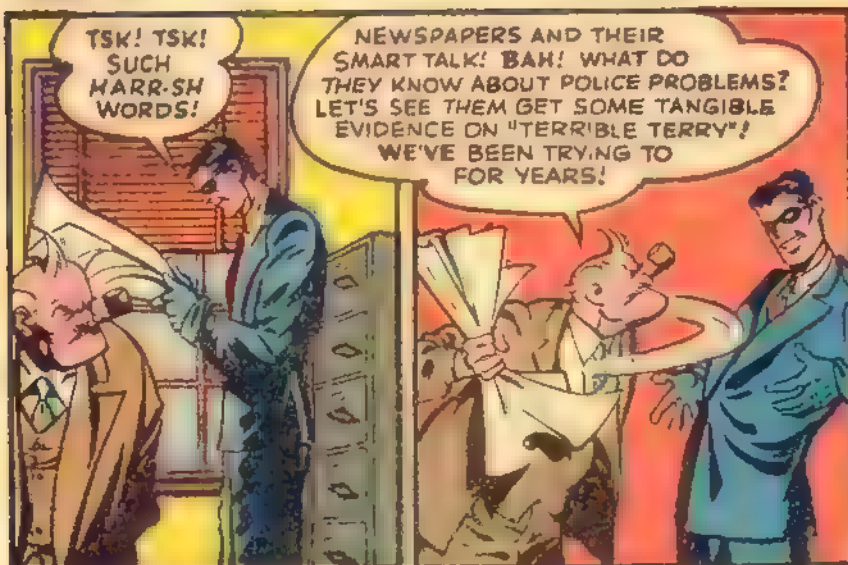
THE SPARROW

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOLAN? YOU LOOK AS IF YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW JUST NOW HIT TOWN!

HUH! ... AT A TIME LIKE THIS YOU GOTTA CRACK MOTHER-IN-LAW JOKES!

I GET IT! WHICH OF YOUR DETESTABLE QUALITIES IS ANNOYING THE PRESS THIS TIME?...





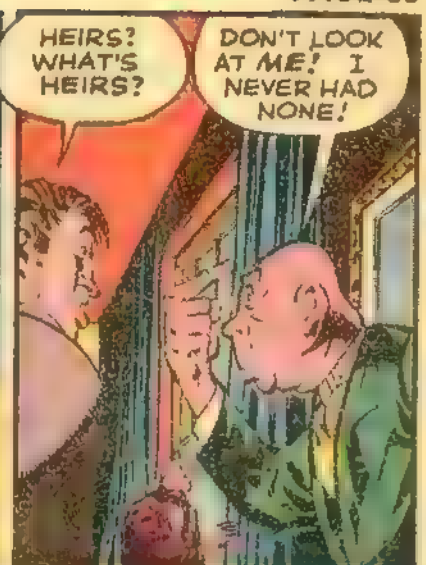


I SEE YOU GUYS UNDERSTAND! **SNIFF**

UNDERSTAND WHAT, BOSS?

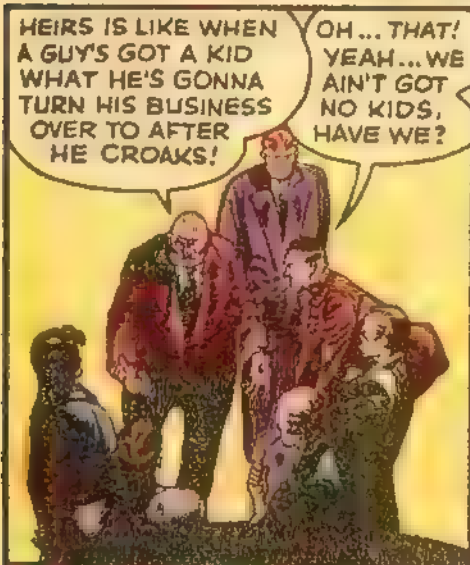


UNDERSTAND THAT WE ALL GOTTA DIE SOME DAY ... AN' THAT WE AIN'T GONNA HAVE NO HEIRS TO TAKE OVER THE RACKETS!



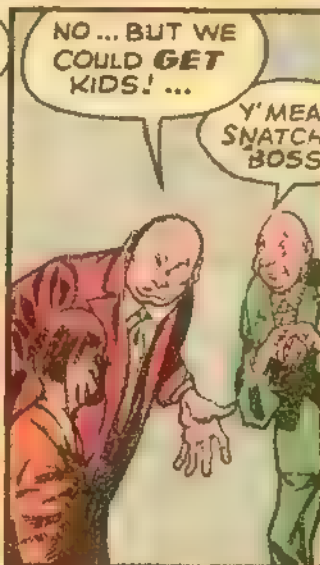
HEIRS? WHAT'S HEIRS?

DON'T LOOK AT ME! I NEVER HAD NONE!



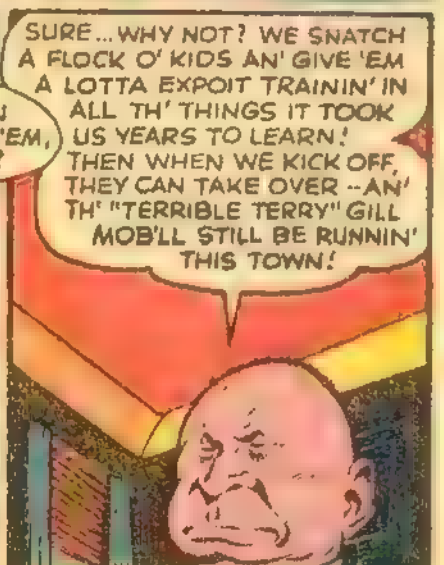
HEIRS IS LIKE WHEN A GUY'S GOT A KID WHAT HE'S GONNA TURN HIS BUSINESS OVER TO AFTER HE CROAKS!

OH ... THAT! YEAH ... WE AIN'T GOT NO KIDS, HAVE WE?

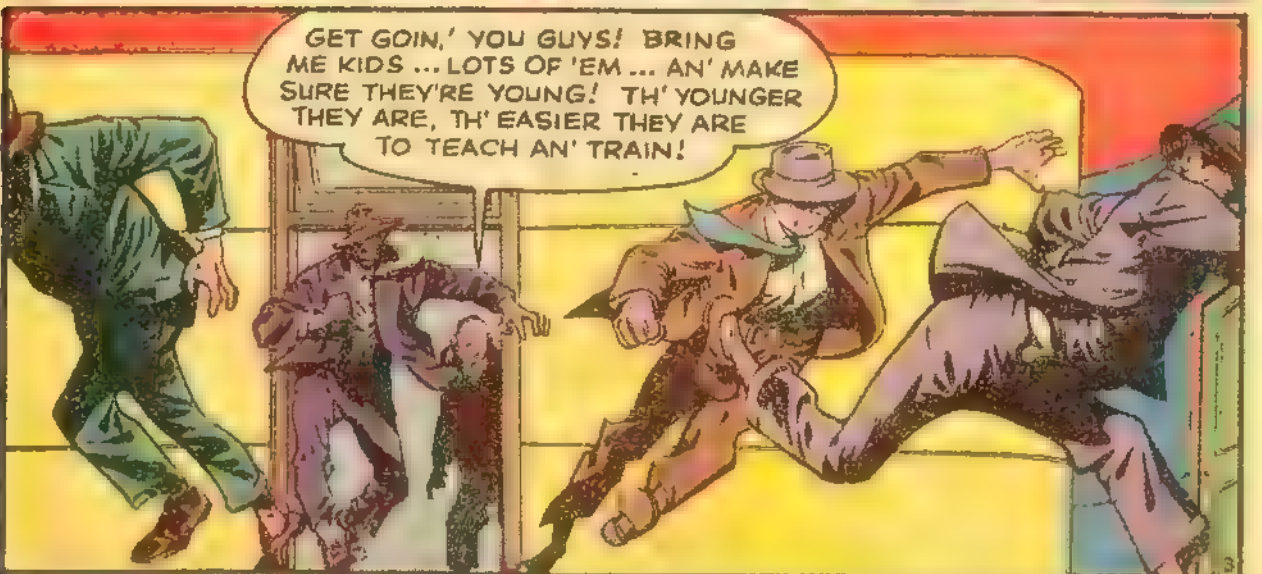


NO ... BUT WE COULD **GET** KIDS! ...

Y'MEAN **SNATCH** 'EM, BOSS?

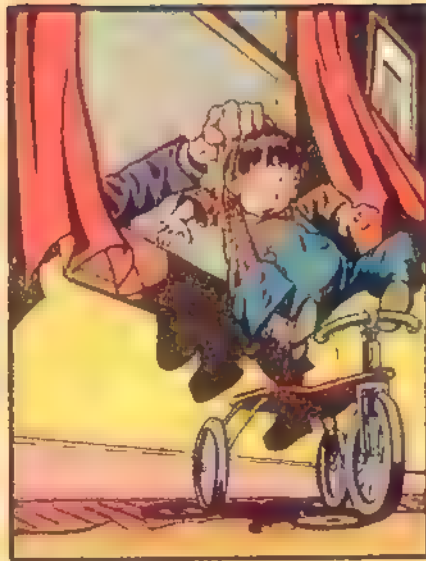


SURE ... WHY NOT? WE SNATCH A FLOCK O' KIDS AN' GIVE 'EM A LOTTA EXPLOIT TRAININ' IN ALL TH' THINGS IT TOOK US YEARS TO LEARN! THEN WHEN WE KICK OFF, THEY CAN TAKE OVER -- AN' TH' "TERRIBLE TERRY" GILL MOB'LL STILL BE RUNNIN' THIS TOWN!

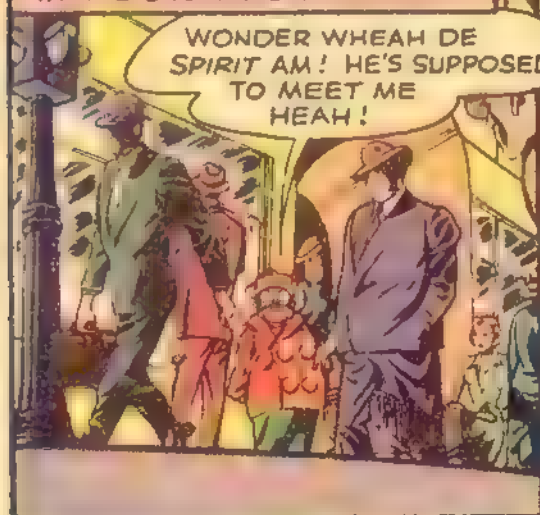


GET GOIN,' YOU GUYS! BRING ME KIDS ... LOTS OF 'EM ... AN' MAKE SURE THEY'RE YOUNG! TH' YOUNGER THEY ARE, TH' EASIER THEY ARE TO TEACH AN' TRAIN!

A KIDNAPPING EPIDEMIC HITS TOWN! ...

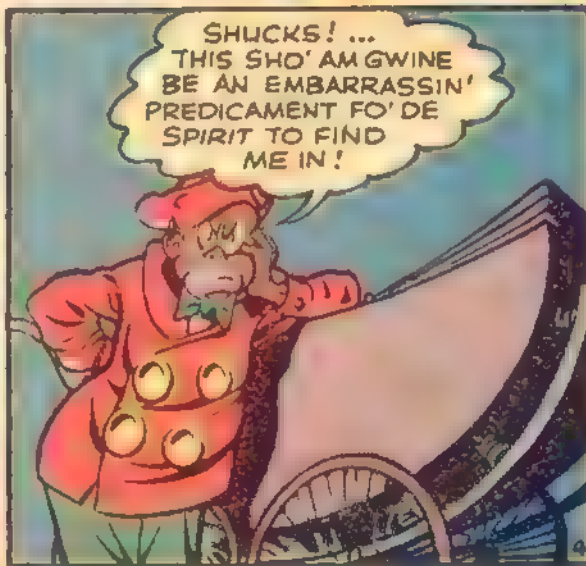
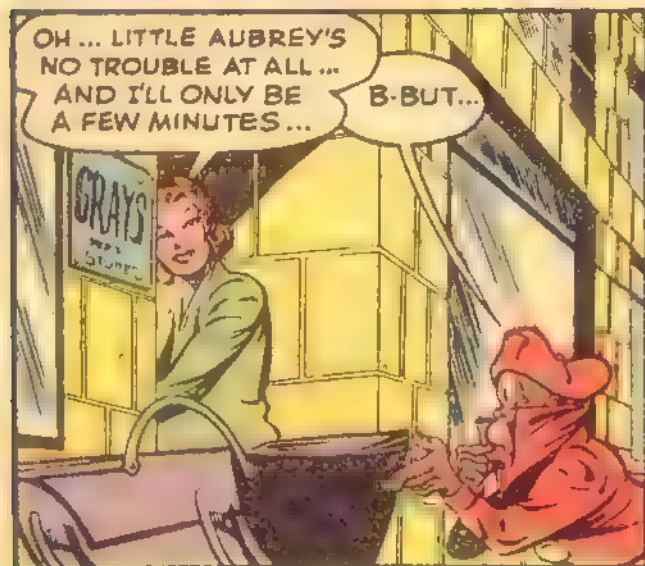


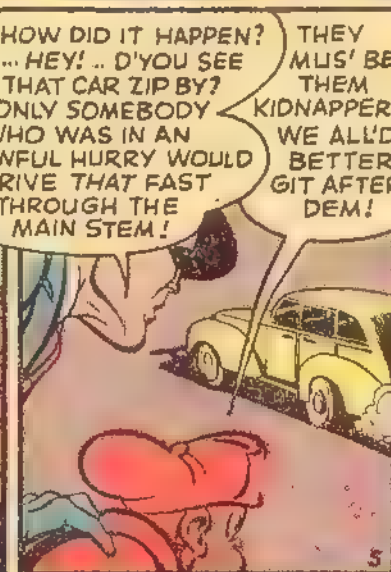
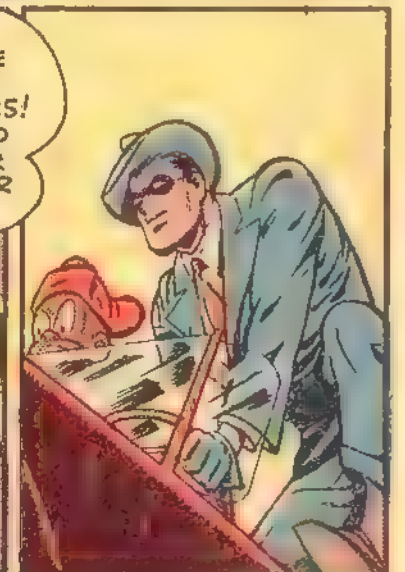
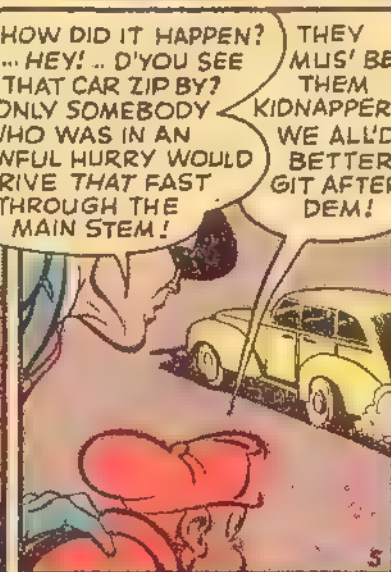
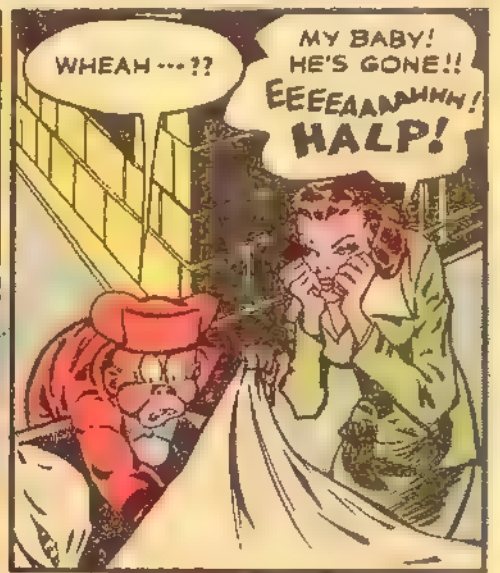
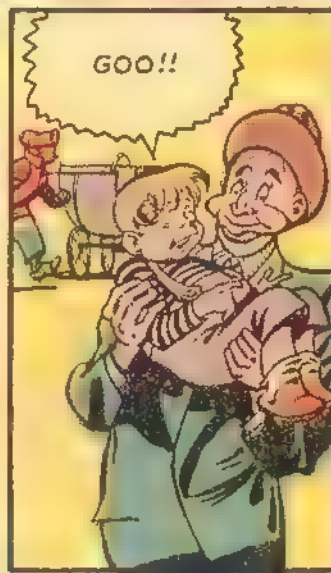
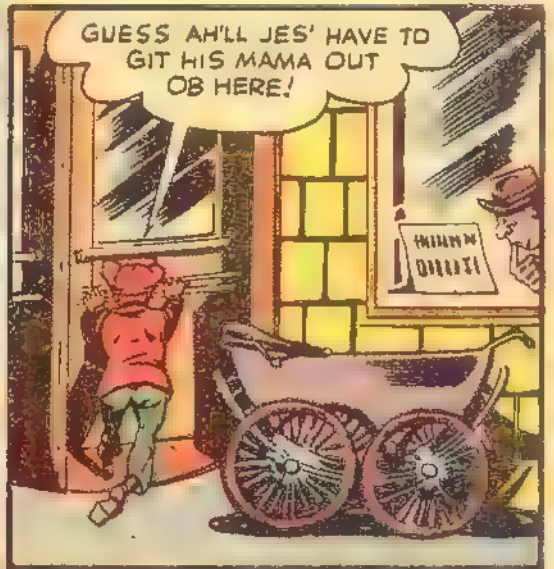
IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...

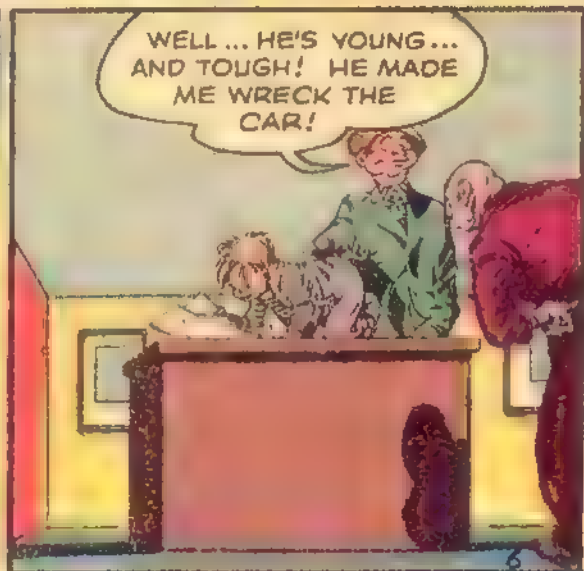
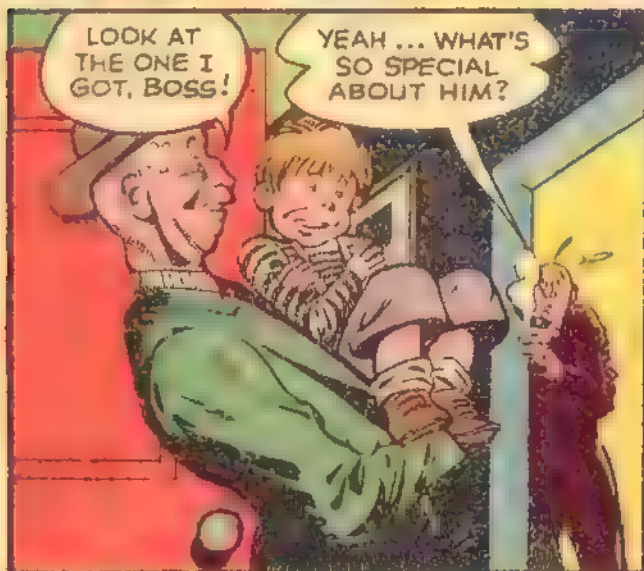
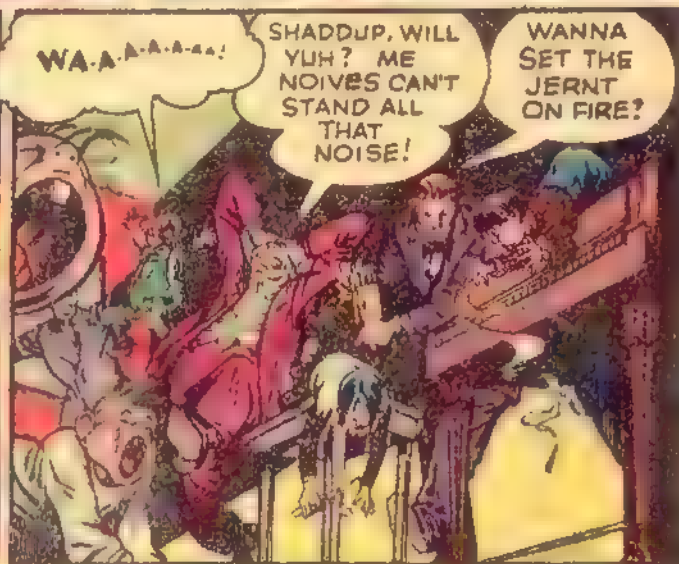
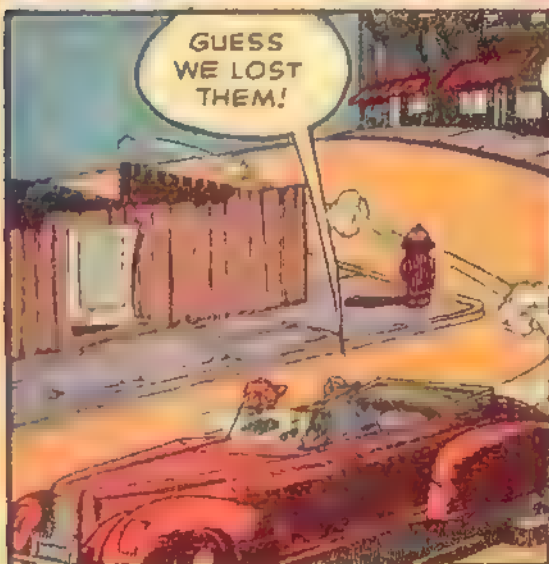
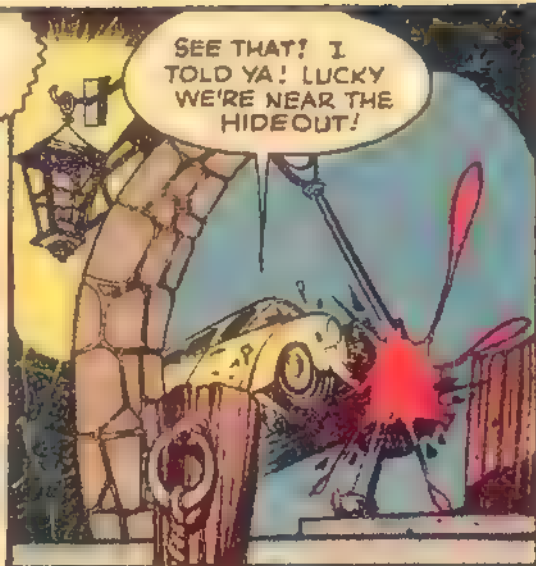
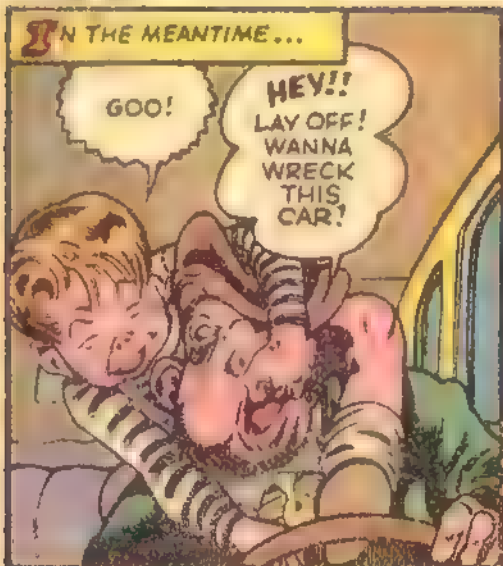


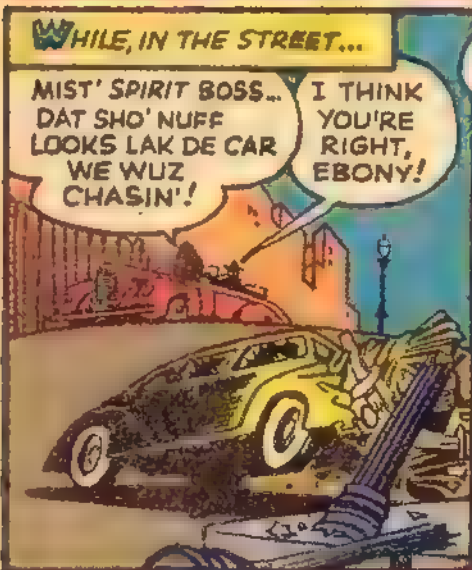
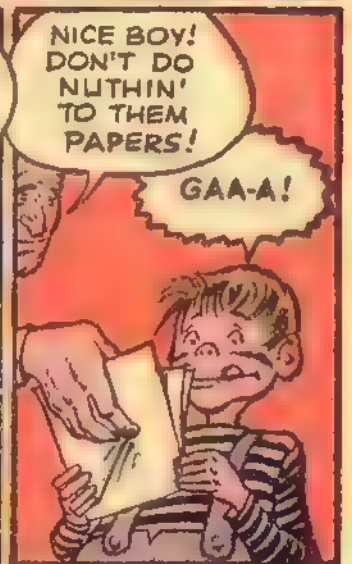
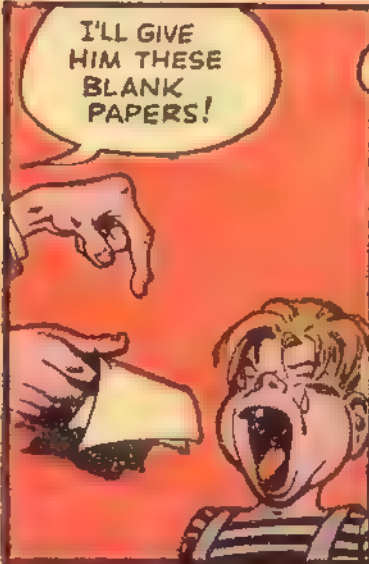
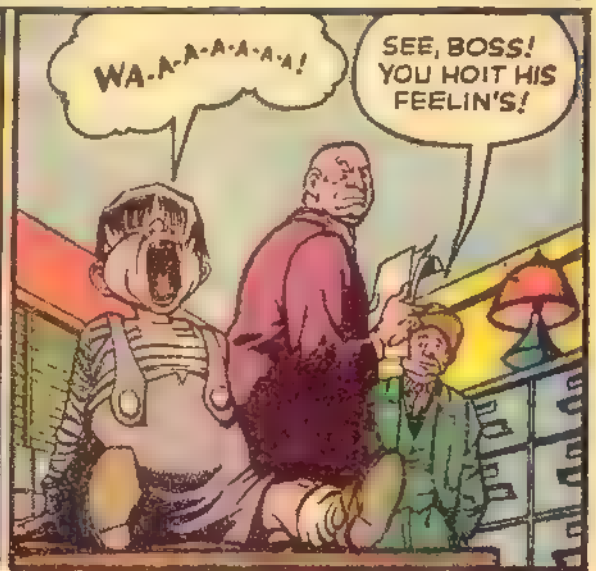
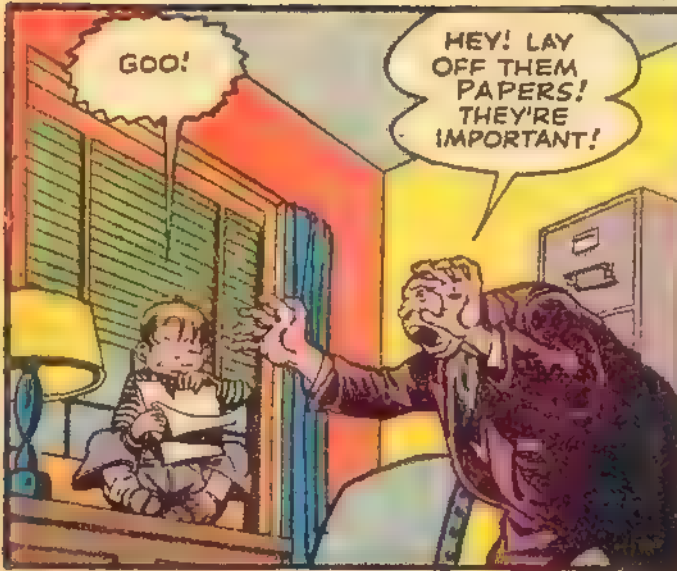
OH ... LITTLE AUBREY'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL ... AND I'LL ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES...

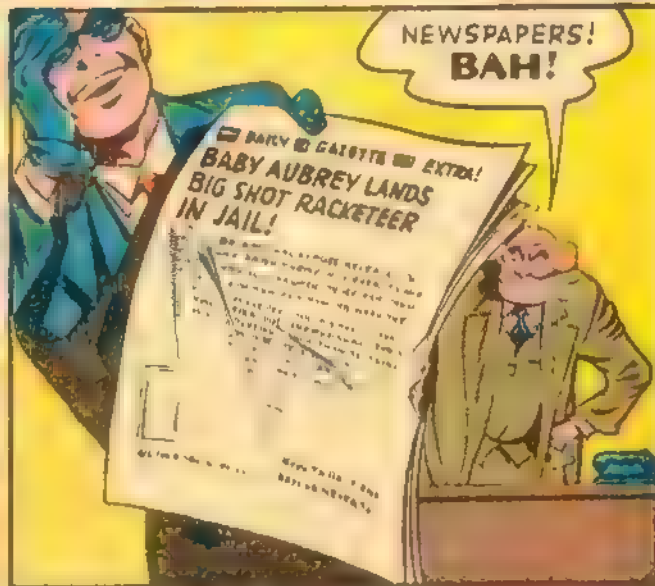
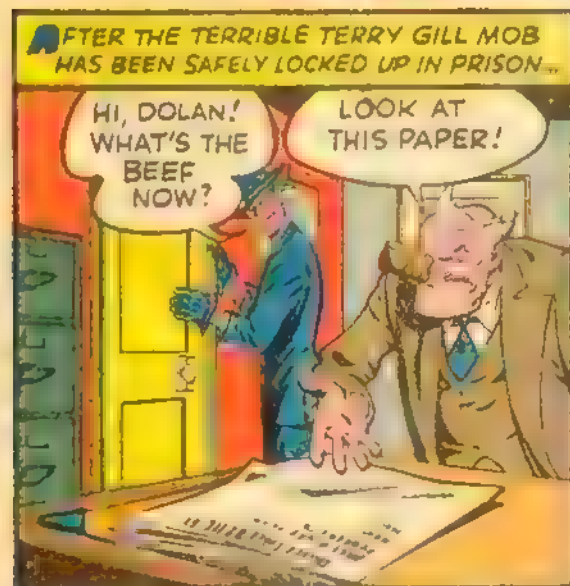
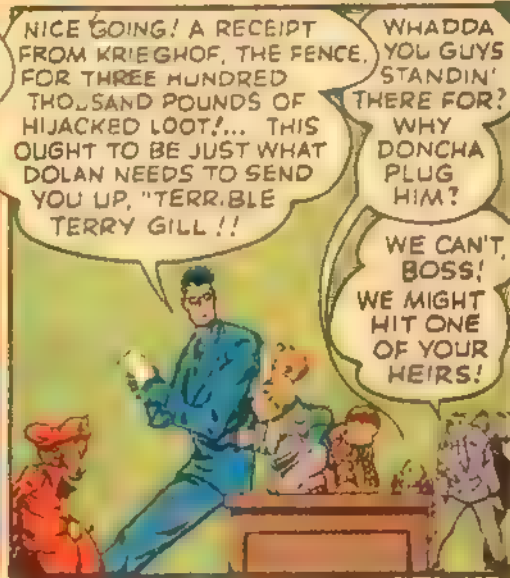
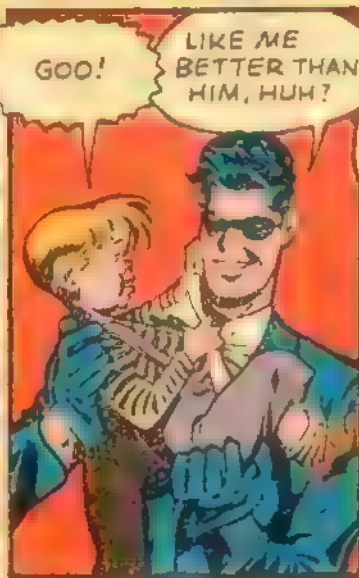
B-BUT...



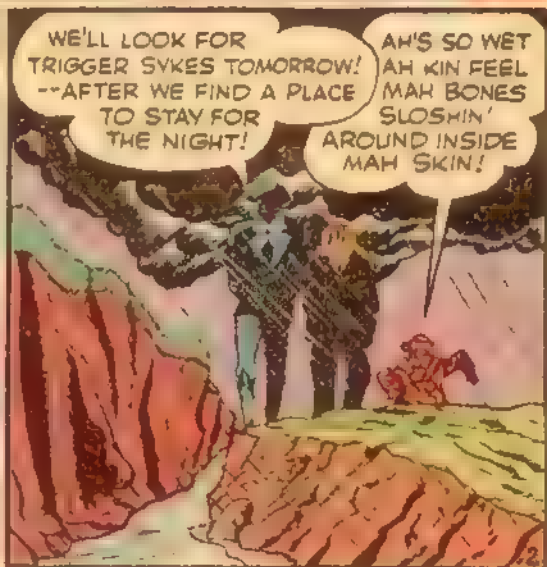
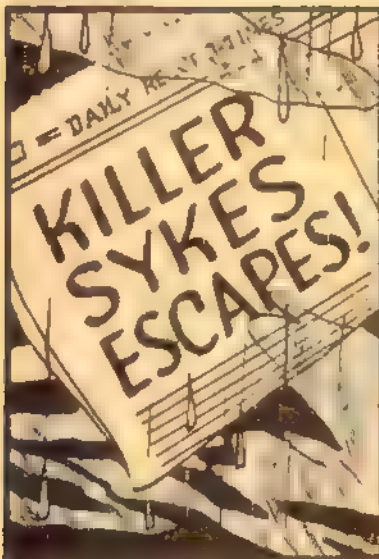


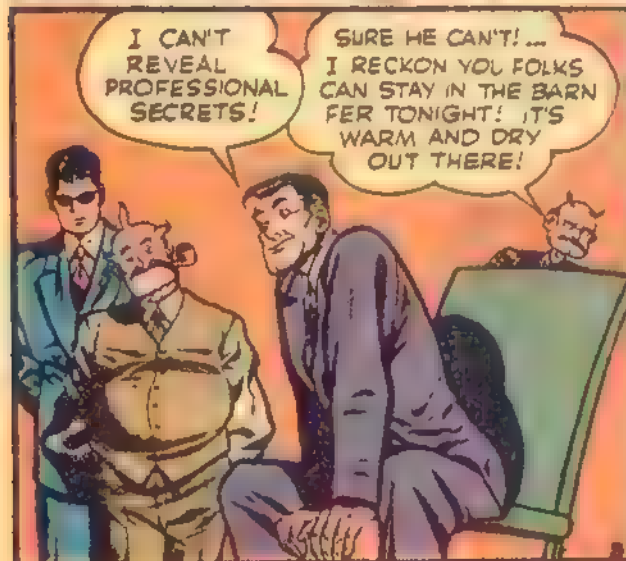
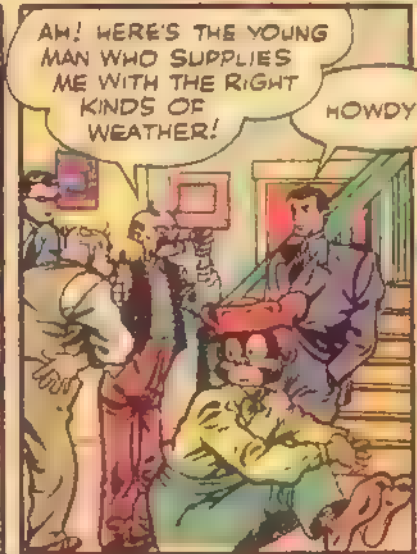
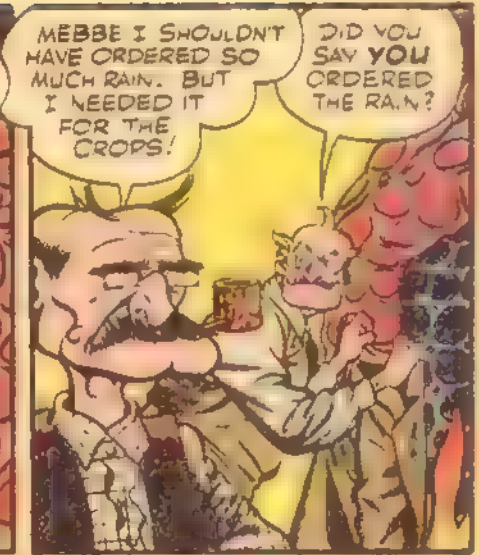
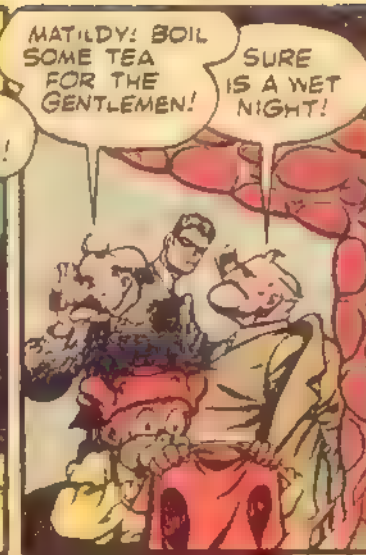
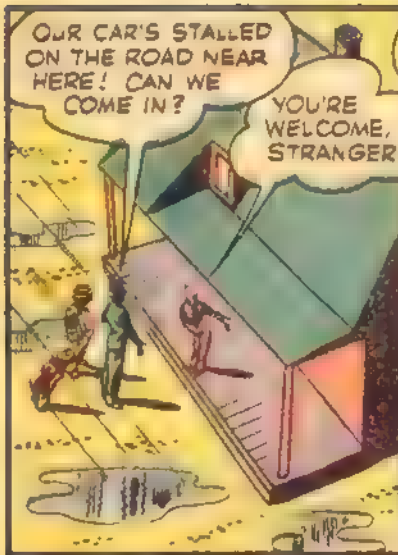


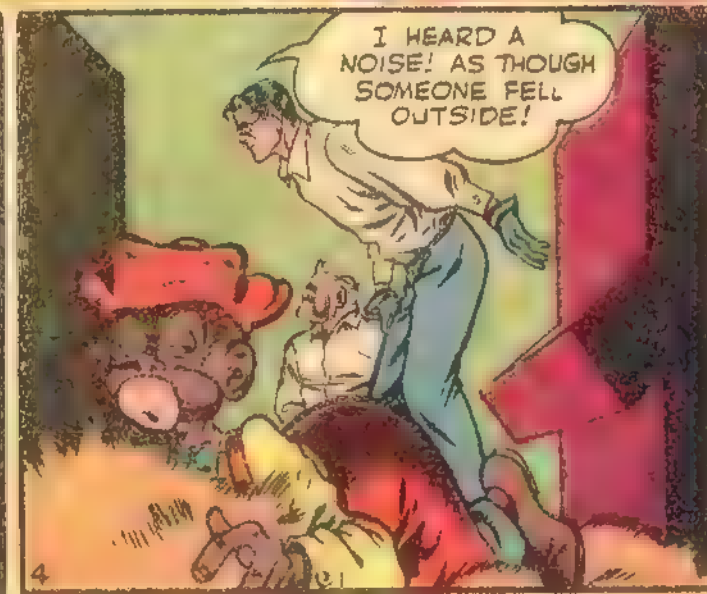
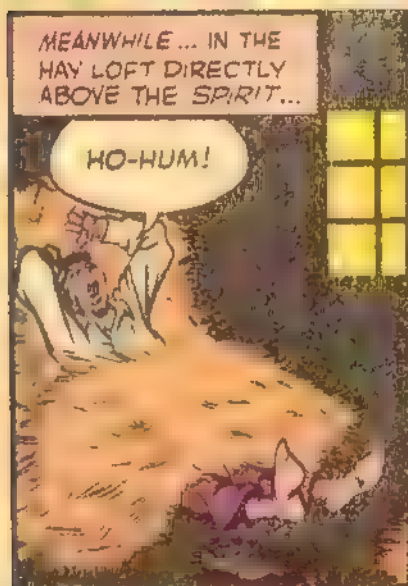
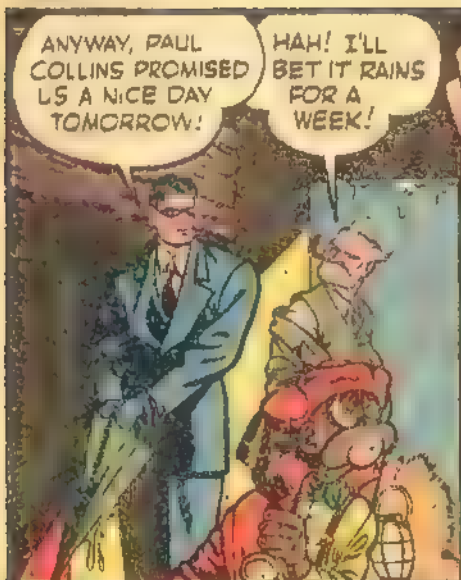






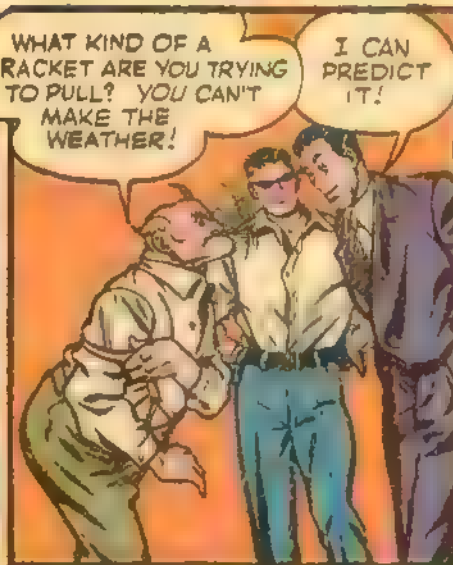






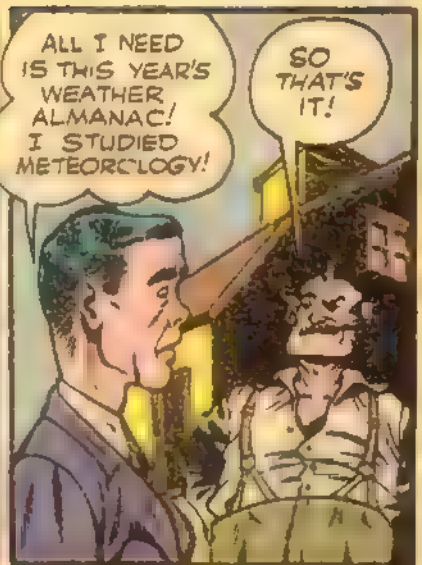


OH! ... IT'S THE WEATHER-MAKER!



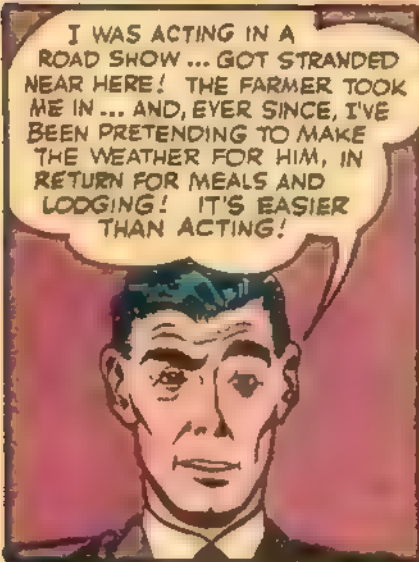
WHAT KIND OF A RACKET ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL? YOU CAN'T MAKE THE WEATHER!

I CAN PREDICT IT!



ALL I NEED IS THIS YEAR'S WEATHER ALMANAC! I STUDIED METEORCLOGY!

SO THAT'S IT!

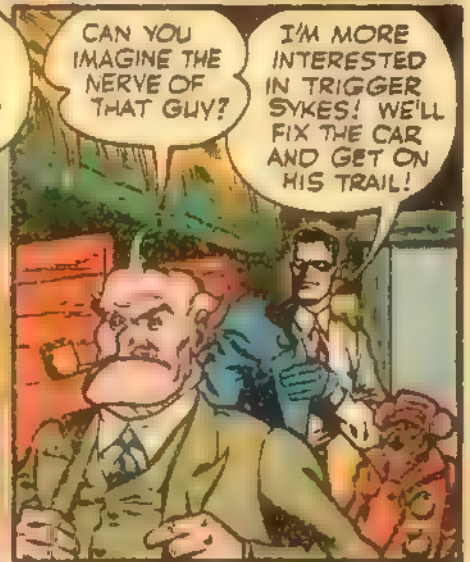


I WAS ACTING IN A ROAD SHOW ... GOT STRANDED NEAR HERE! THE FARMER TOOK ME IN ... AND, EVER SINCE, I'VE BEEN PRETENDING TO MAKE THE WEATHER FOR HIM, IN RETURN FOR MEALS AND LODGING! IT'S EASIER THAN ACTING!



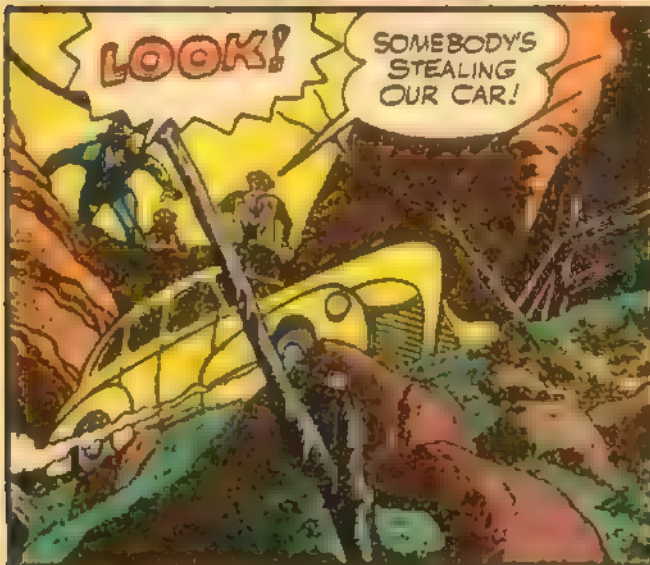
YOU WON'T GIVE ME AWAY, WILL YOU?

CHEAP FAKER! COME ON, SPIRIT!



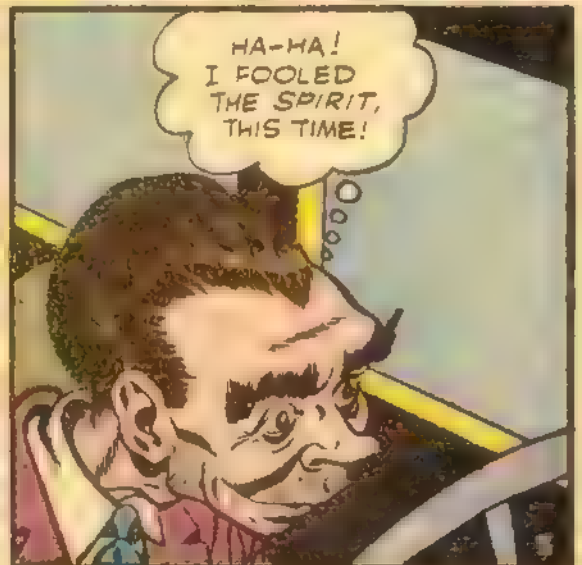
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE NERVE OF THAT GUY?

I'M MORE INTERESTED IN TRIGGER SYKES! WE'LL FIX THE CAR AND GET ON HIS TRAIL!

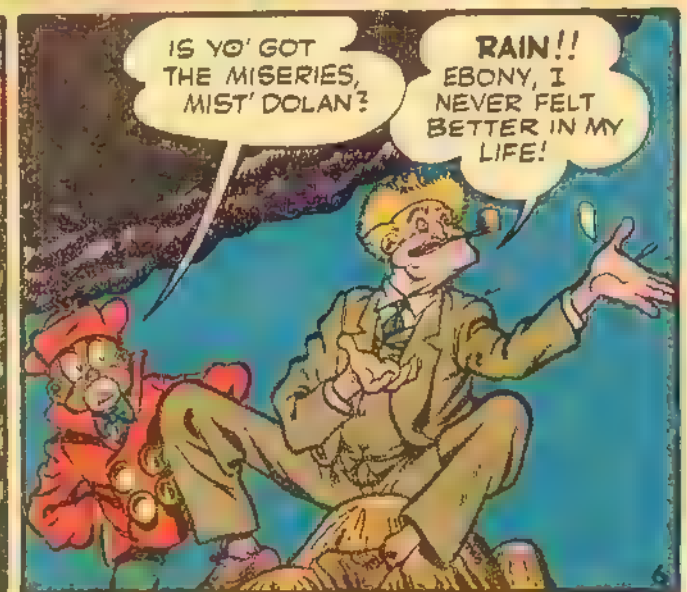
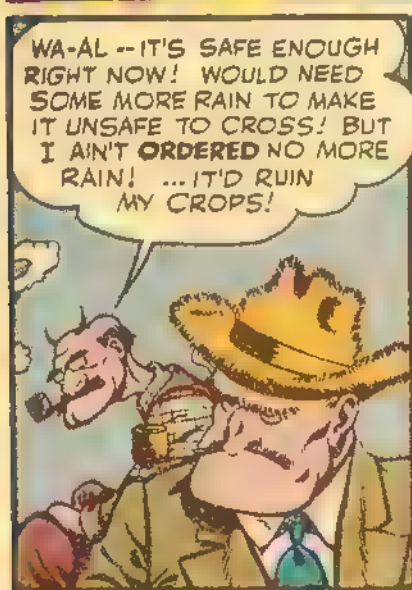
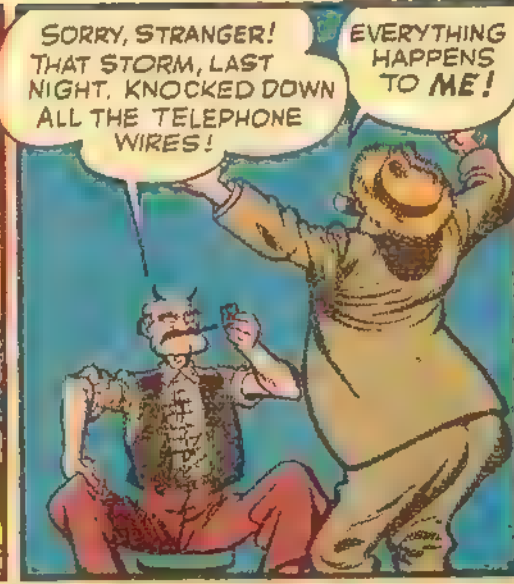


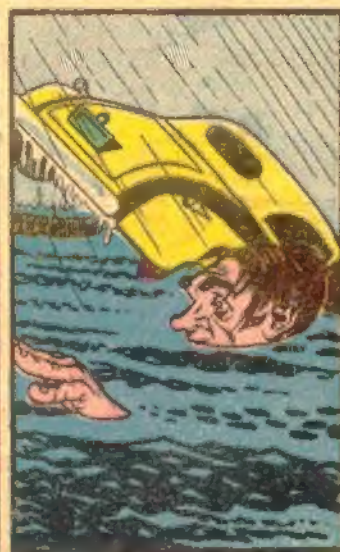
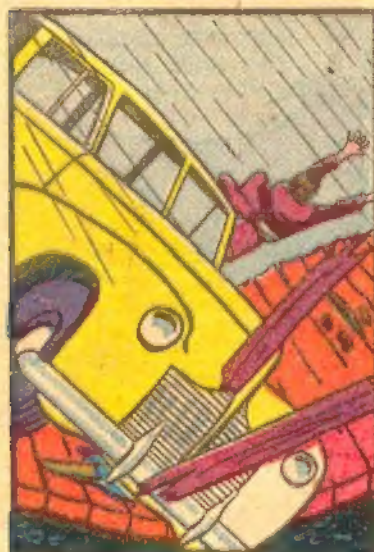
LOOK!

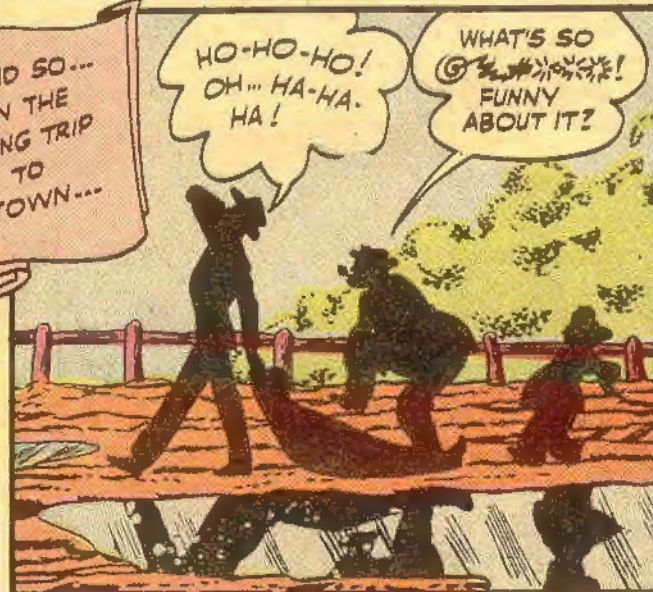
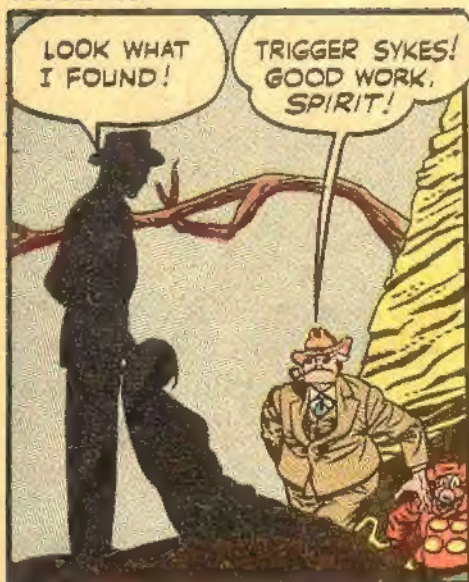
SOMEBODY'S STEALING OUR CAR!



HA-HA! I FOOLED THE SPIRIT, THIS TIME!







This publication has been manufactured under wartime
conditions in full compliance with all orders and regulations
of the War Production Board

By

VITAL PUBLICATIONS, Inc.

New York

